NEXTWORLD

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From the Creator of *ASTRO BOY*®

OSAMU TEZUKA

scans:
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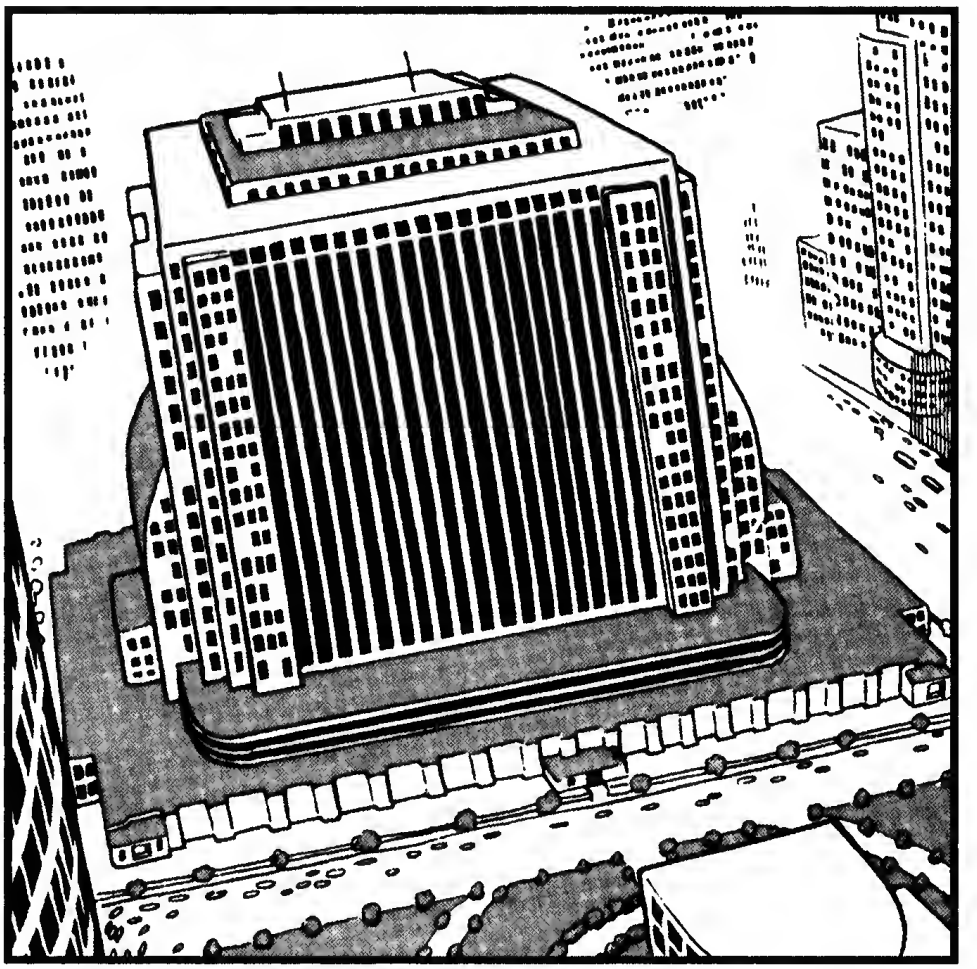
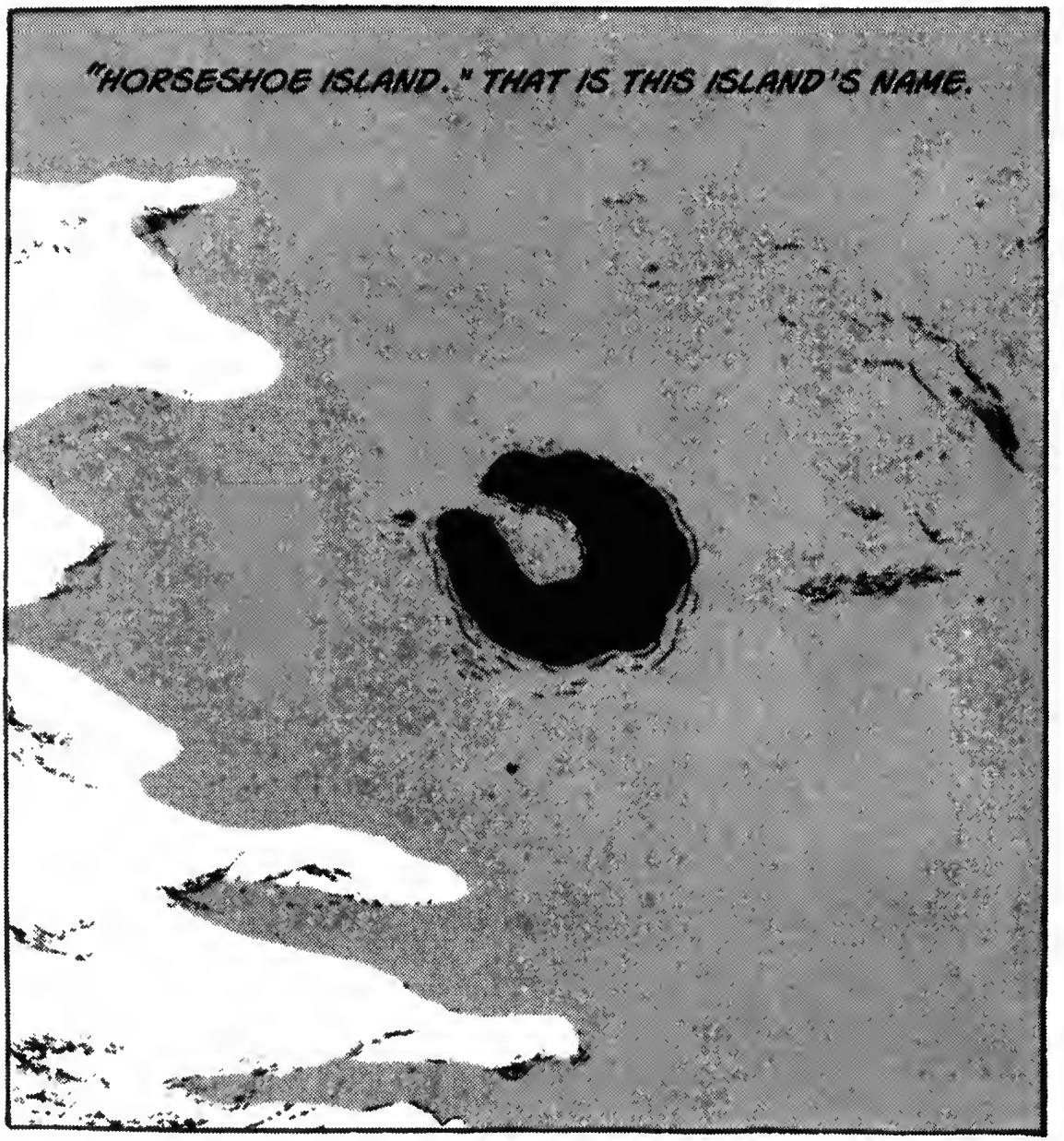
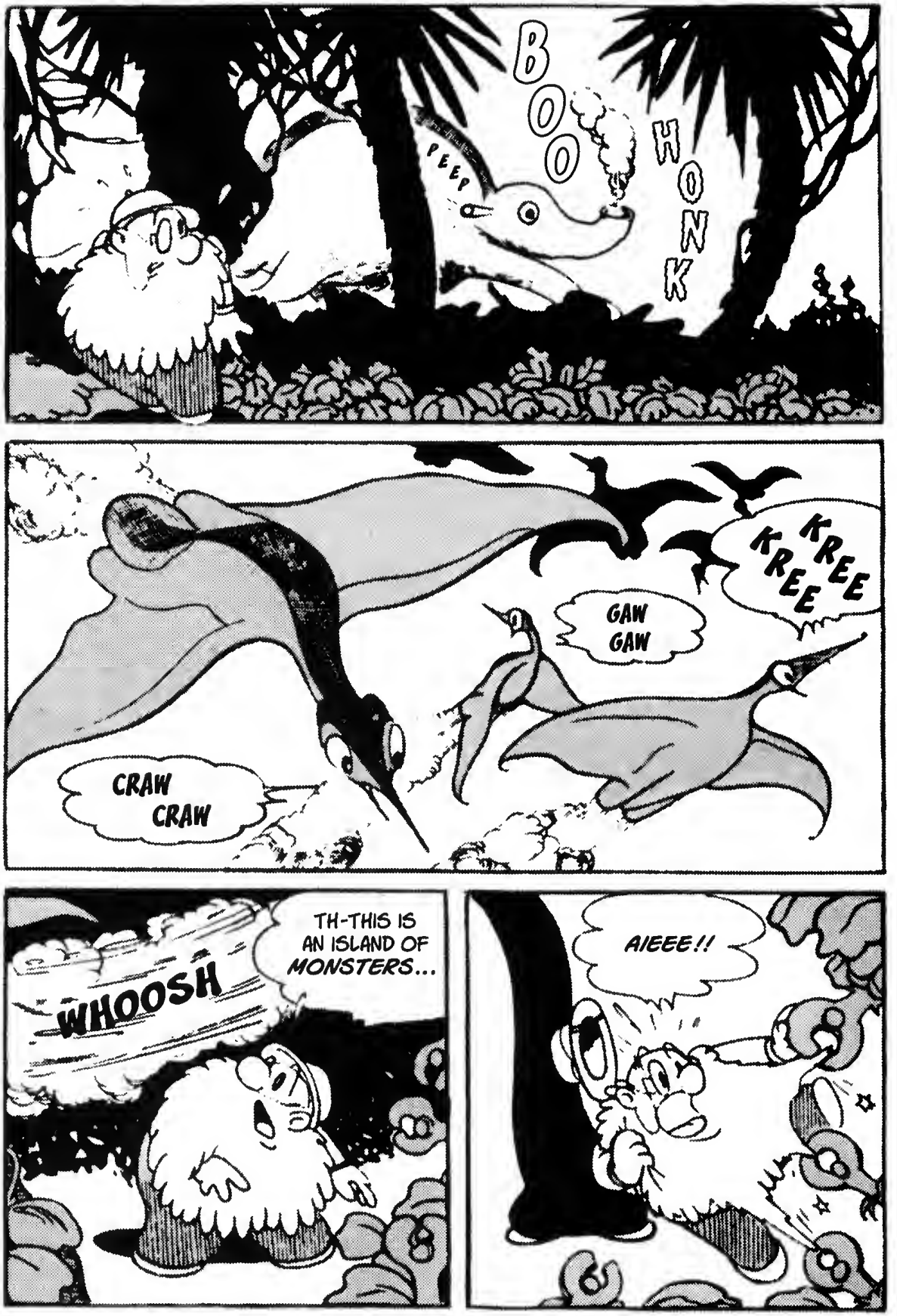


DOCTOR YAMADANO ON A STORMY NIGHT

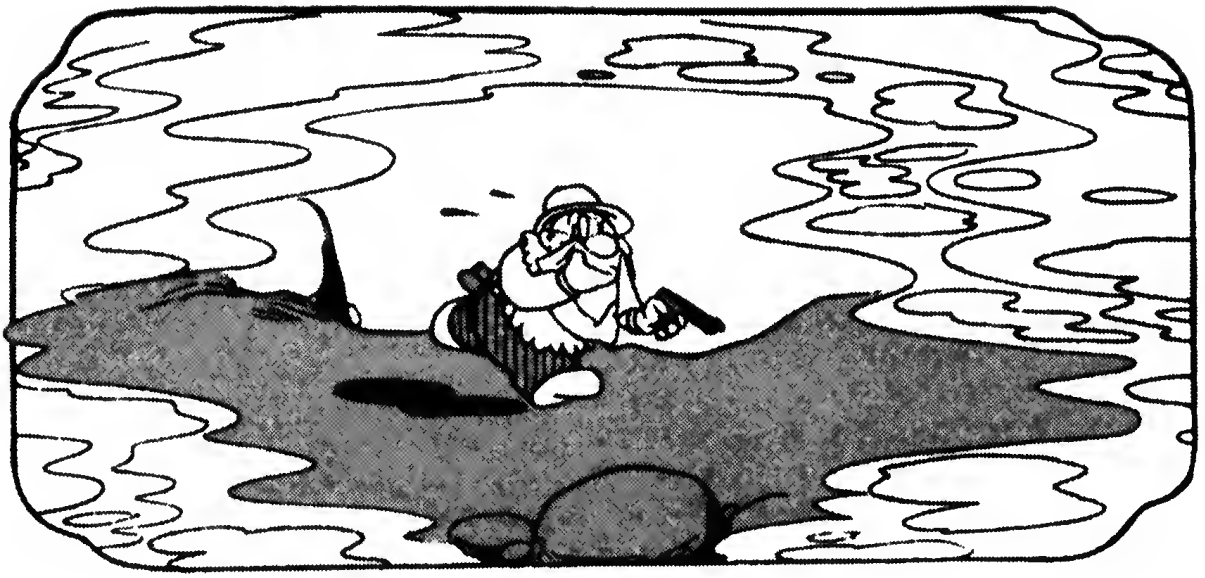
HORSESHOE ISLAND



AND AS FOR HOW MYSTERIOUS THIS PARTICULAR ISLAND IS...
... WE SHALL PROBABLY UNDERSTAND IF WE FOLLOW AFTER THIS MAN.
VURURURURU VURURURURU
CHIC CHIC PLASCHIC PLASCHIC


BOO
HONK
PEEP
KREE KREE
GAW GAW
CRAW CRAW
WHOOSH
TH-THIS IS AN ISLAND OF MONSTERS...
AIEEE!!

TOOTOOTOOTOOT
PEEPEEPEEPEEP
FSSSS



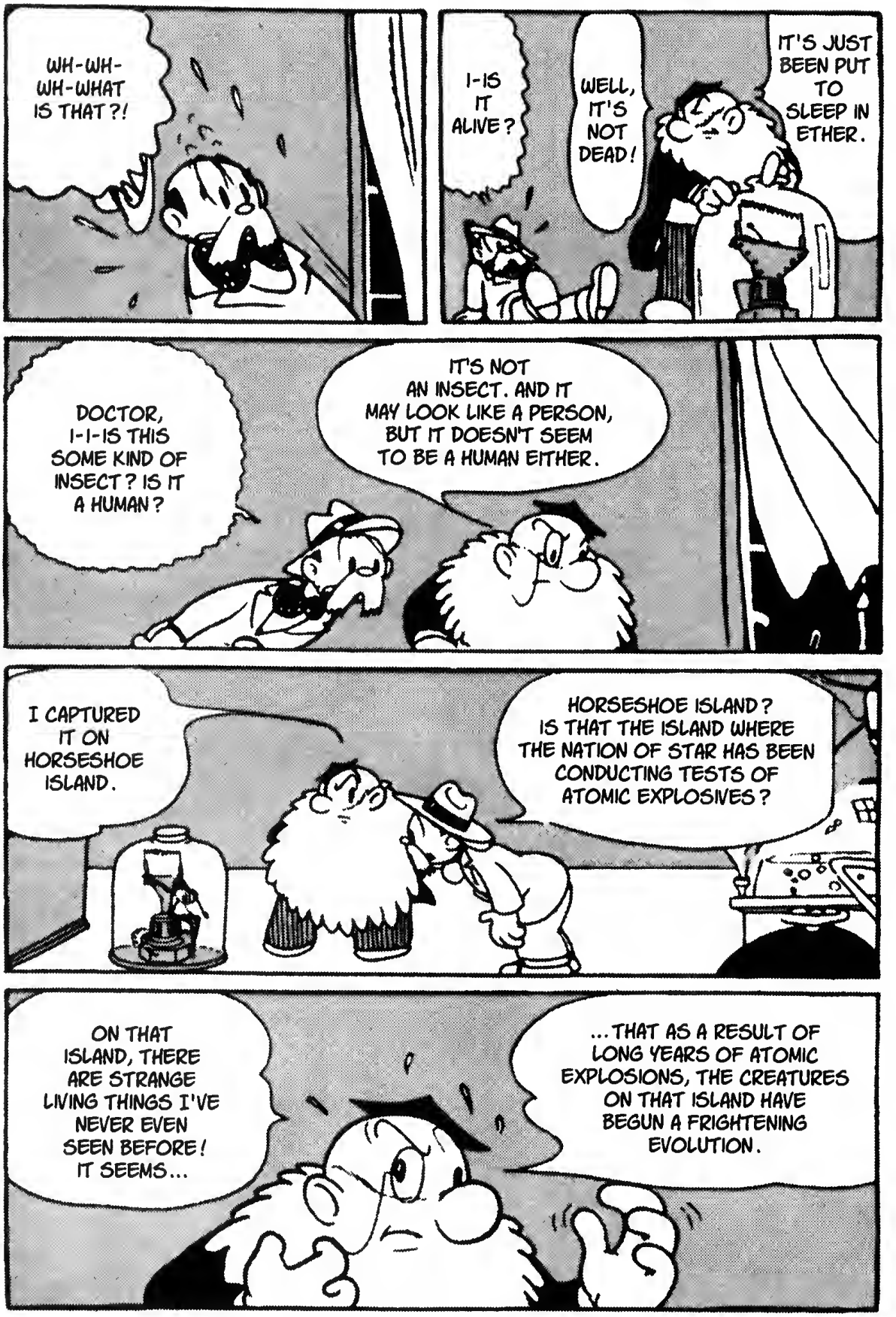
GASP!

THE SCREAMING VOICE FROM INSIDE THE BUNDLE

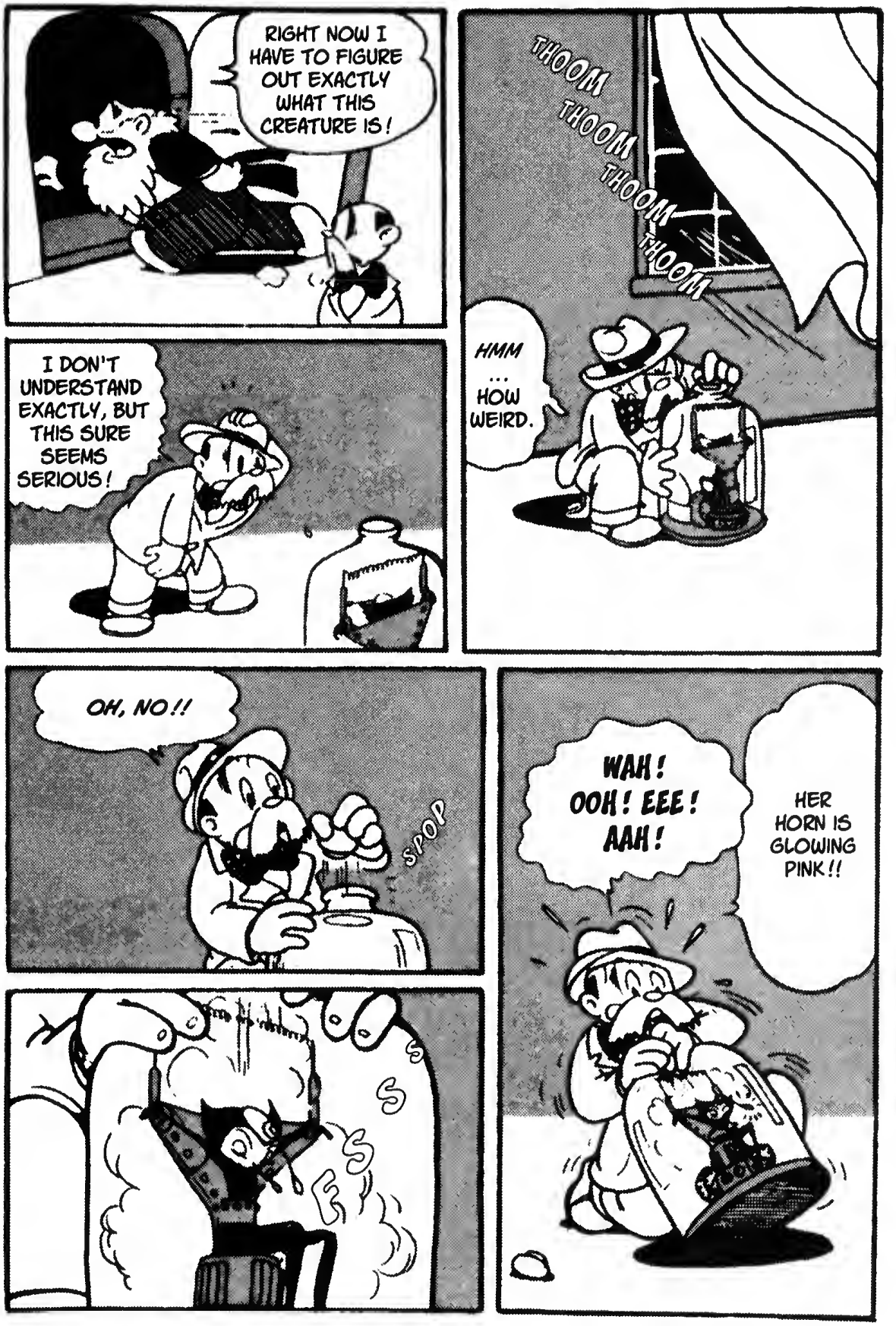
BOUND FOR SHIBUYA SHINJUKU AND IKEBUKURO
HMPH! IT CAME FROM INSIDE THAT BUNDLE!
HEY! MY UNCLE'S GONE.
YOUR UNCLE'S GONE? HE'S PROBABLY ONTO SOME CASE OR OTHER AGAIN.
I GUESS SO.
INOKASHIRA PARK
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE KAGASHI YAMADANO

THOOM!
THOOM!
WH-WHO ARE YOU!!
THIS SAYS WHO I AM.
PRIVATE DETECTIVE
MUSTACHIO
=GRR!= WHO LET YOU IN HERE ANYWAY?!
HEH HEH! JUST DOING MY JOB. WHEN I SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT THERE, I CAN'T JUST SIT STILL. IT'S MY NATURE, SEE?
HEH HEH! YOU MUSTN'T TRY AND HIDE ANYTHING, DOCTOR!
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK INSIDE THAT BUNDLE YOU CARRIED WITH YOU FROM TOKYO STATION...

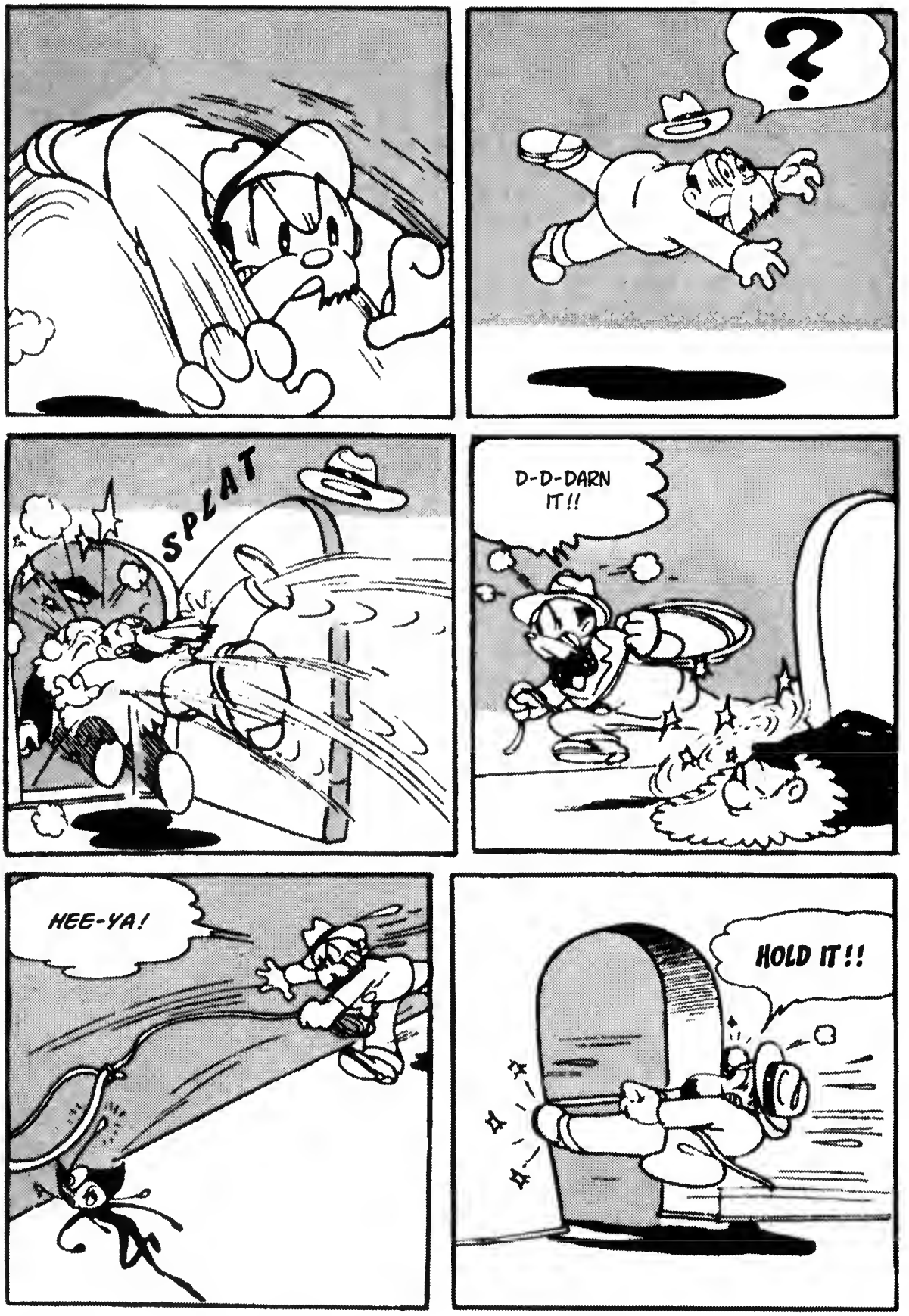
WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT? IF IT'S OKAY TO LOOK AT, THEN IT'S OKAY IF I LOOK AT IT, RIGHT?
LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME TIME TO SETTLE IN!
NO, NO! I WON'T BE ON MY WAY UNTIL I'VE MADE SURE THAT'S NOT A HUMAN BEING IN THERE.
...THIS ISN'T A HUMAN BEING!
YOU LIE!! WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL WOULD CRY OUT "HELP ME"?!
HOW 'BOUT THAT? AM I RIGHT?! DOCTOR, DO WHAT'S RIGHT AND SHOW ME!
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE... YOU THINK I'M A KIDNAPPER OR SOMETHING?!
WELL, ARE YOU GONNA SHOW ME OR AREN'T YOU? YOU GONNA OPEN IT OR NOT?
ALL RIGHT. I'LL SHOW YOU, BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED.

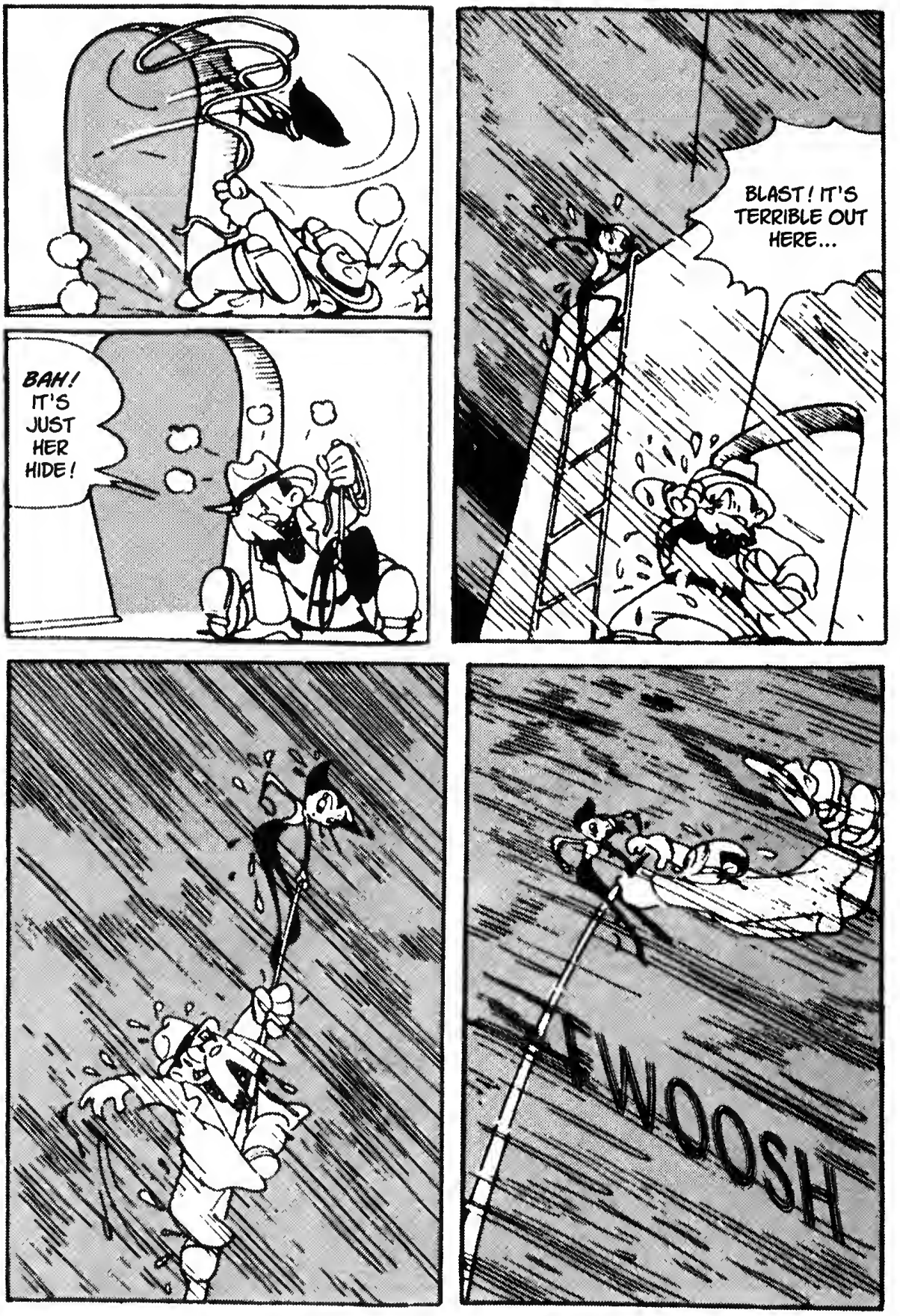

WH-WH-WH-WHAT IS THAT?!
I-IS IT ALIVE?
WELL, IT'S NOT DEAD!
IT'S JUST BEEN PUT TO SLEEP IN ETHER.
DOCTOR, I-I-IS THIS SOME KIND OF INSECT? IS IT A HUMAN?
IT'S NOT AN INSECT. AND IT MAY LOOK LIKE A PERSON, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A HUMAN EITHER.
I CAPTURED IT ON HORSESHOE ISLAND.
HORSESHOE ISLAND? IS THAT THE ISLAND WHERE THE NATION OF STAR HAS BEEN CONDUCTING TESTS OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES?
ON THAT ISLAND, THERE ARE STRANGE LIVING THINGS I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN BEFORE! IT SEEMS...
...THAT AS A RESULT OF LONG YEARS OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS, THE CREATURES ON THAT ISLAND HAVE BEGUN A FRIGHTENING EVOLUTION.

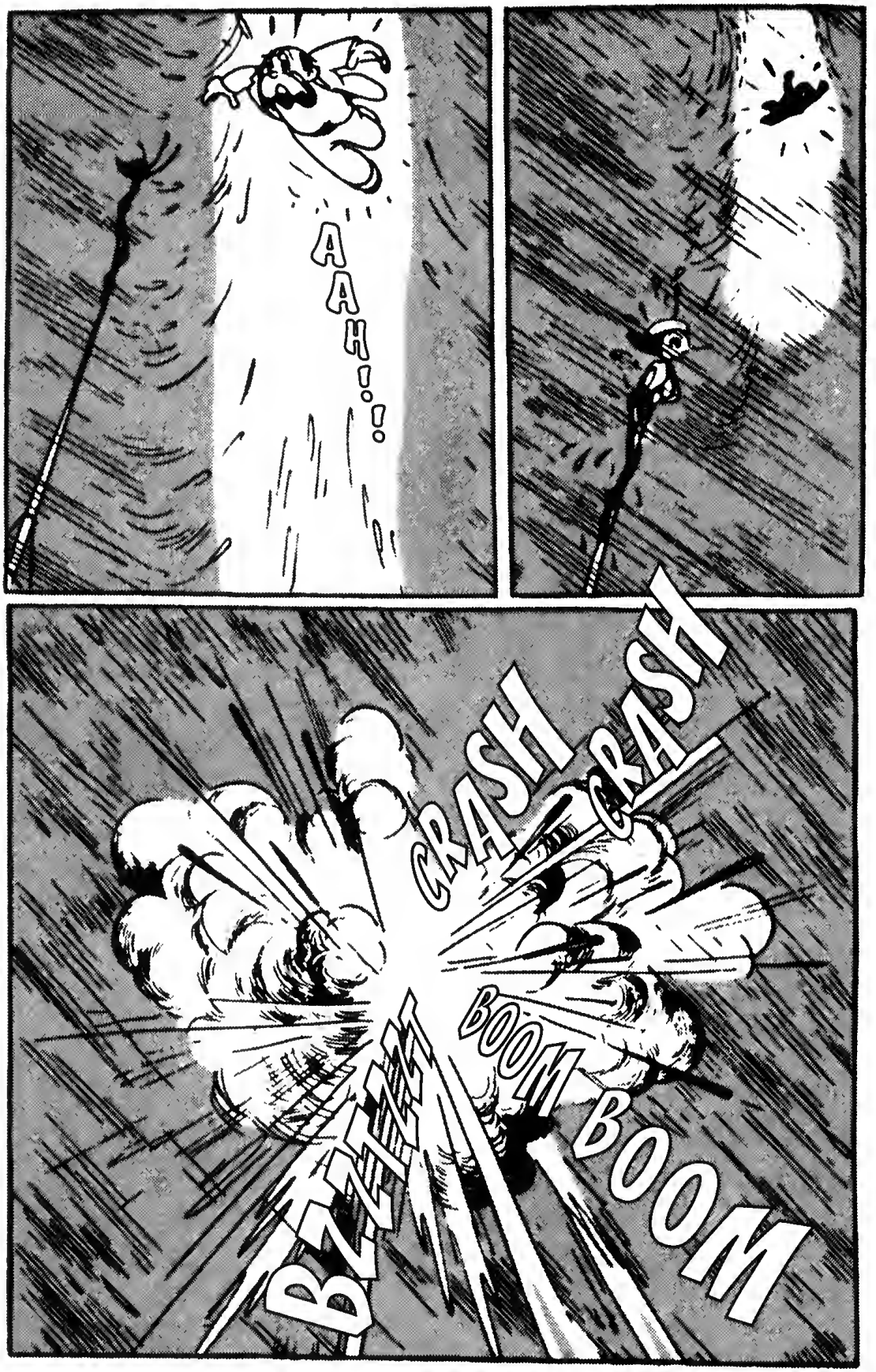
IT'S POSS-IBLE... THIS MAY BE...
WHAT'S POSSI-BLE?
... I THINK THAT...
I SEE!
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET!
NO WONDER I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.
I WONDER IF THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT HAS EVOLVED FROM A HUMAN!
WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
ANYWAY... LET ME TELL YOU...
MAKE NO MISTAKE--THIS IS A MOST SERIOUS MATTER! AS A RESULT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ALL THE BIOTA ON EARTH WILL PROBABLY BEGIN RAPIDLY CHANGING!
MR. MUSTACHIO, TOMORROW I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS AND GO TO THE NATION OF STAR! THERE I WILL APPEAR AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC ENERGY AND TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT THIS.

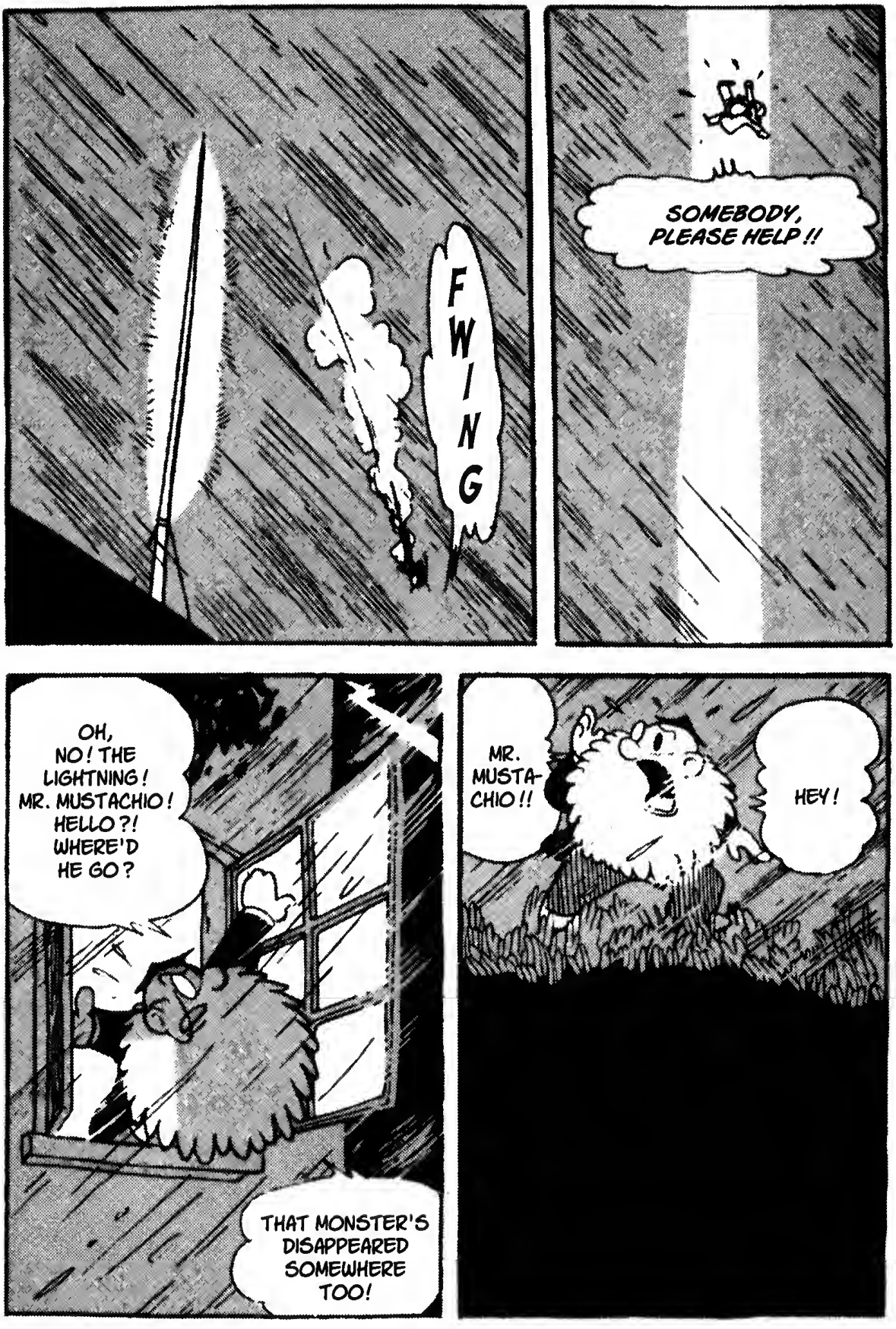

RIGHT NOW I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THIS CREATURE IS!
THOOM THOOM THOOM THOOM
HMM ... HOW WEIRD.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY, BUT THIS SURE SEEMS SERIOUS!
OH, NO!!
SPOP
WAH! OOH! EEE! AAH!
HER HORN IS GLOWING PINK!!

WHOA!
FUMOON...
KA SMASH-
SMASH
=GRR...
=HMPH!= COME GET IT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST...


?
SPLAT
D-D-DARN IT!!
HEE-YA!
HOLD IT!!


BAH! IT'S JUST HER HIDE!
BLAST! IT'S TERRIBLE OUT HERE...
WOOSH


AAH!!!
BZZZT
CRASH
CRASH
BOOM
BOOM


FWING
SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP!!
OH, NO! THE LIGHTNING! MR. MUSTACHIO! HELLO?! WHERE'D HE GO?
THAT MONSTER'S DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE TOO!
MR. MUSTA-CHIO!!
HEY!

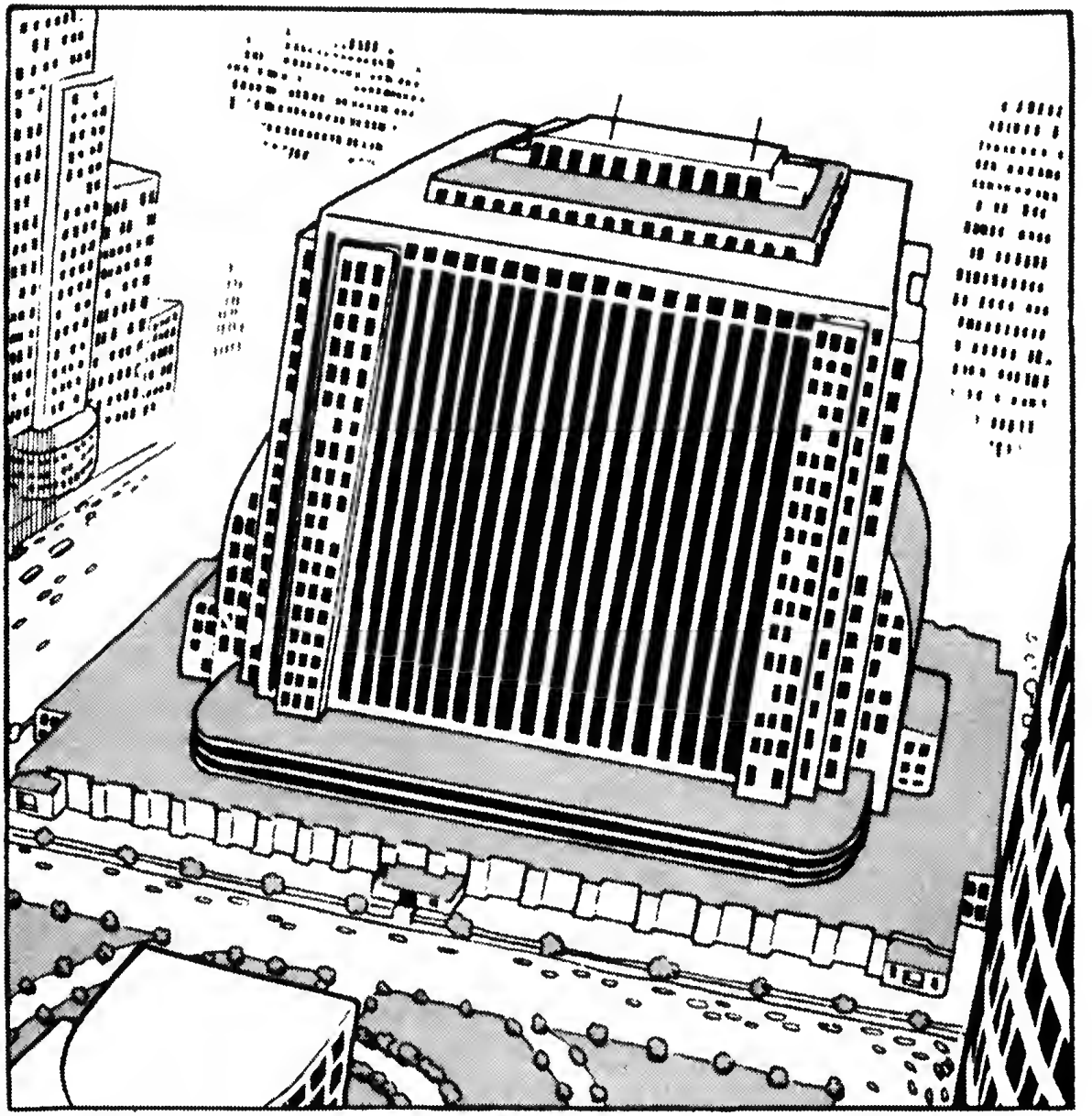
MR. MUST-ACHIO!
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM

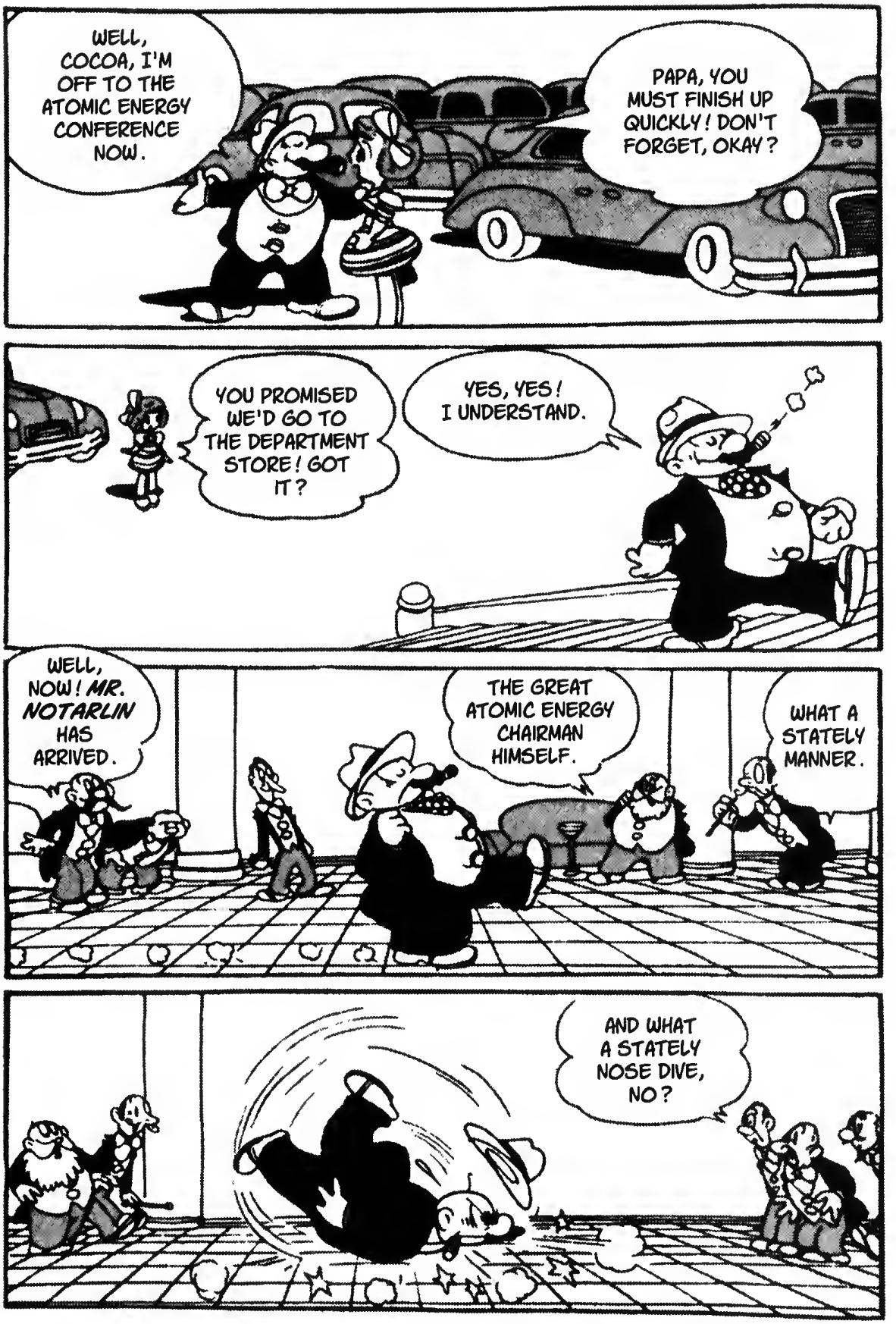
I... I WILL INFORM THE WORLD OF THIS INCIDENT NO MATTER THE COST!

MUSTACHIO!

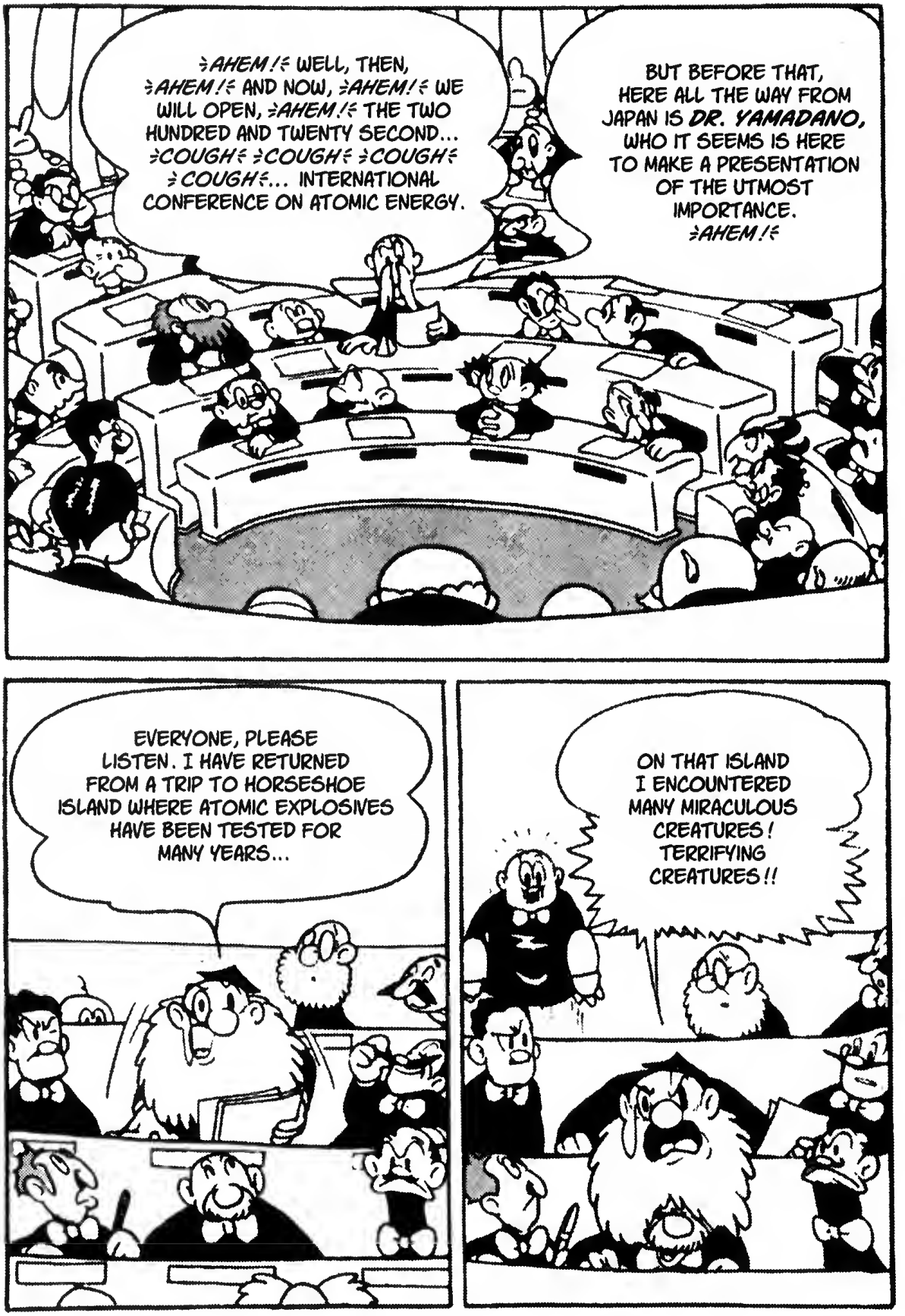
THE NATION OF STAR'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

ATOM HALL




WELL, COCOA, I'M OFF TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY CONFERENCE NOW.
PAPA, YOU MUST FINISH UP QUICKLY! DON'T FORGET, OKAY?
YOU PROMISED WE'D GO TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE! GOT IT?
YES, YES! I UNDERSTAND.
WELL, NOW! MR. NOTARLIN HAS ARRIVED.
THE GREAT ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN HIMSELF.
WHAT A STATELY MANNER.
AND WHAT A STATELY NOSE DIVE, NO?

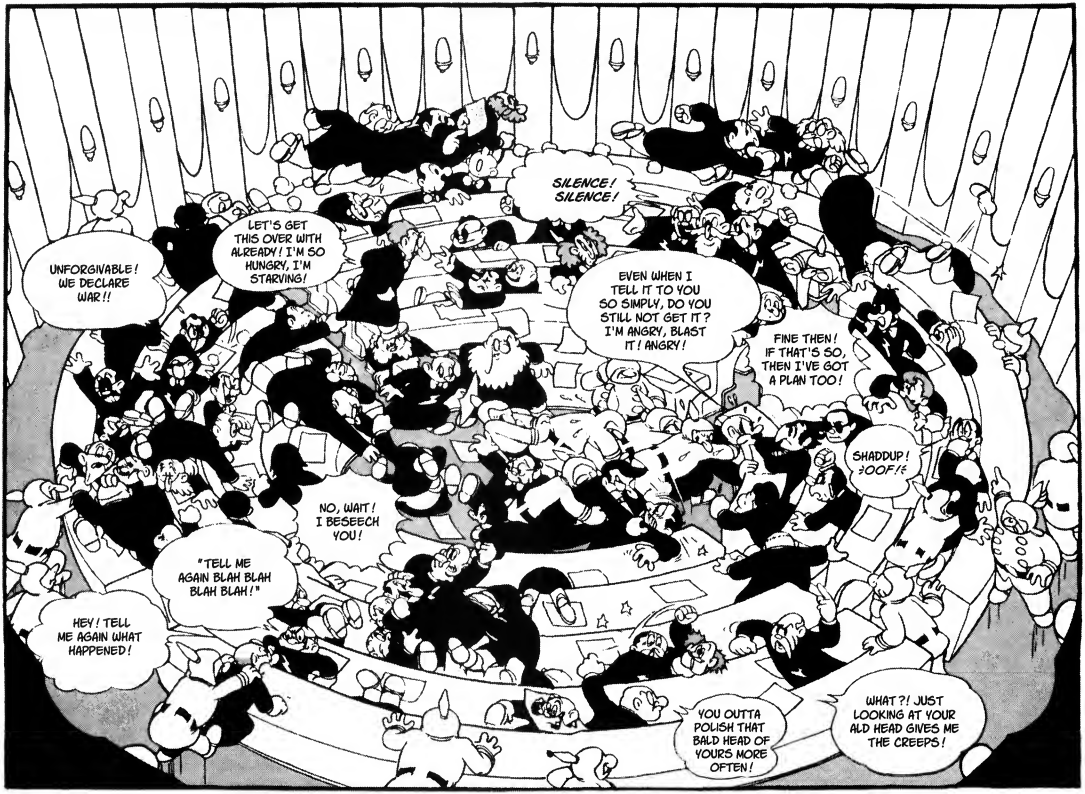
YET EVEN THOUGH HE FELL OVER, IN TRUE FORM HIS CIGAR NEVER LEFT HIS MOUTH.
HELLO, MR. NIKOLAI REDONOV OF THE URAN FEDERATION. YOUR NOSE IS MAGNIFICENT AS ALWAYS I SEE.
WHY, HELLO THERE! =HICCUP!=
I HEAR A CERTAIN DR. KAGASHI YAMADANO FROM JAPAN IS GOING TO MAKE SOME KIND OF REPORT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
YA-MAMBO? I WONDER IF HE'LL SHOW US HOW TO DO THE TWO-STEP OR SOMETHING.
OH! DR. YAMADANO! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU HERE TO REPORT, I WONDER? A DRAFT AMENDMENT PERHAPS?
BAH! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT DRAFT AMENDMENTS! I'M HERE TO TRY AND PUT A COMPLETE STOP TO THE USE OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES.


≥AHEM!≤ WELL, THEN, ≥AHEM!≤ AND NOW, ≥AHEM!≤ WE WILL OPEN, ≥AHEM!≤ THE TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY SECOND... ≥COUGH≤ ≥COUGH≤ ≥COUGH≤ ≥COUGH≤... INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATOMIC ENERGY.
BUT BEFORE THAT, HERE ALL THE WAY FROM JAPAN IS DR. YAMADANO, WHO IT SEEMS IS HERE TO MAKE A PRESENTATION OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. ≥AHEM!≤
EVERYONE, PLEASE LISTEN. I HAVE RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO HORSESHOE ISLAND WHERE ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR MANY YEARS...
ON THAT ISLAND I ENCOUNTERED MANY MIRACULOUS CREATURES! TERRIFYING CREATURES!!

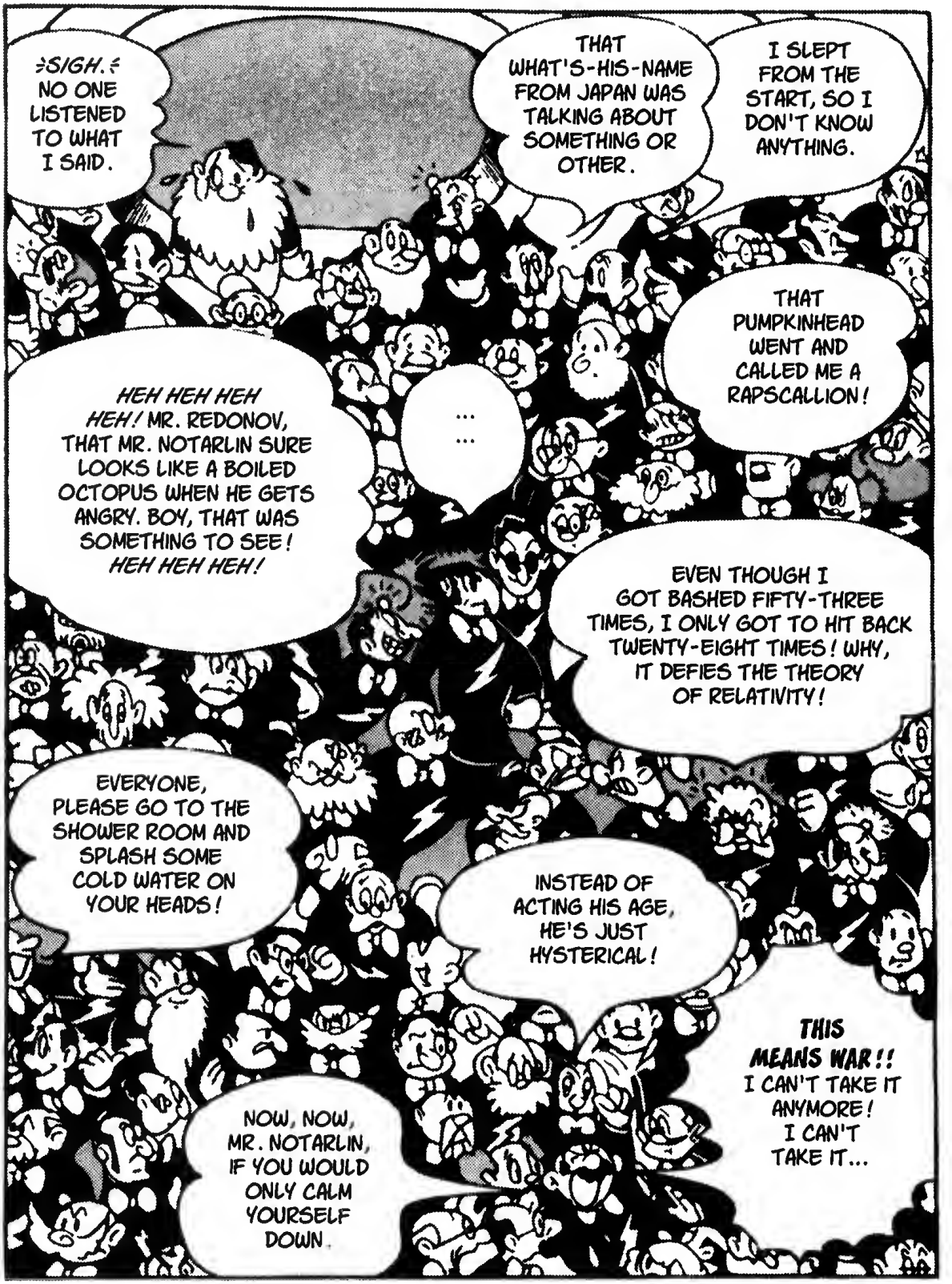
THE INSECTS AND BIRDS AND PLANTS AND TREES...
... AS A RESULT OF REPEATED ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS...
... ARE TURNING INTO VERDER-UNGEN!!
ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES WILL CHANGE...
...ALL OF THE BIOTA ON EARTH !!
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF SCAM.
THE WORLD HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO REGULATE ATOMIC POWER.
STAR REPRESENTATIVE
YOU ARE MIST-AKEN, MR. NOT-ARLIN.
URAN FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE
IF THEY'RE USED IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM AS WE PLEASE.
URAN FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE
I-IF YOU DO THAT, THEN IT'LL START A WAR!
IT'S THE OPPO-SITE !!

MR. NIKOLAI REDONOV, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY HERE IS...
STAR REPRESENTATIVE
... IN OTHER WORDS, NAMELY, IF YOU DO THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER-- DOING AS YOU PLEASE...
STAR REPRESENT
...WILL MAKE MATTERS WORSE! UNDERSTAND? WHAT I MEAN IS... THAT IS...
AN ATOMIC ENERGY PACT!
STAR REPRESENTATIVE
VERY NICE!
SONOTAOZAY REPRESENTATIVE
SHADDAP!
REPUBLIC OF FINAY REPRESENTATIVE
EVERYONE, PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY. WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU, MR. NOTARLIN? NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL YOU, IT APPEARS THAT YOU STILL CANNOT COMPREHEND.
YES, YES! HEH HEH! TAKE THAT! I MEAN, I CONCUR WITH WHAT HE SAID!

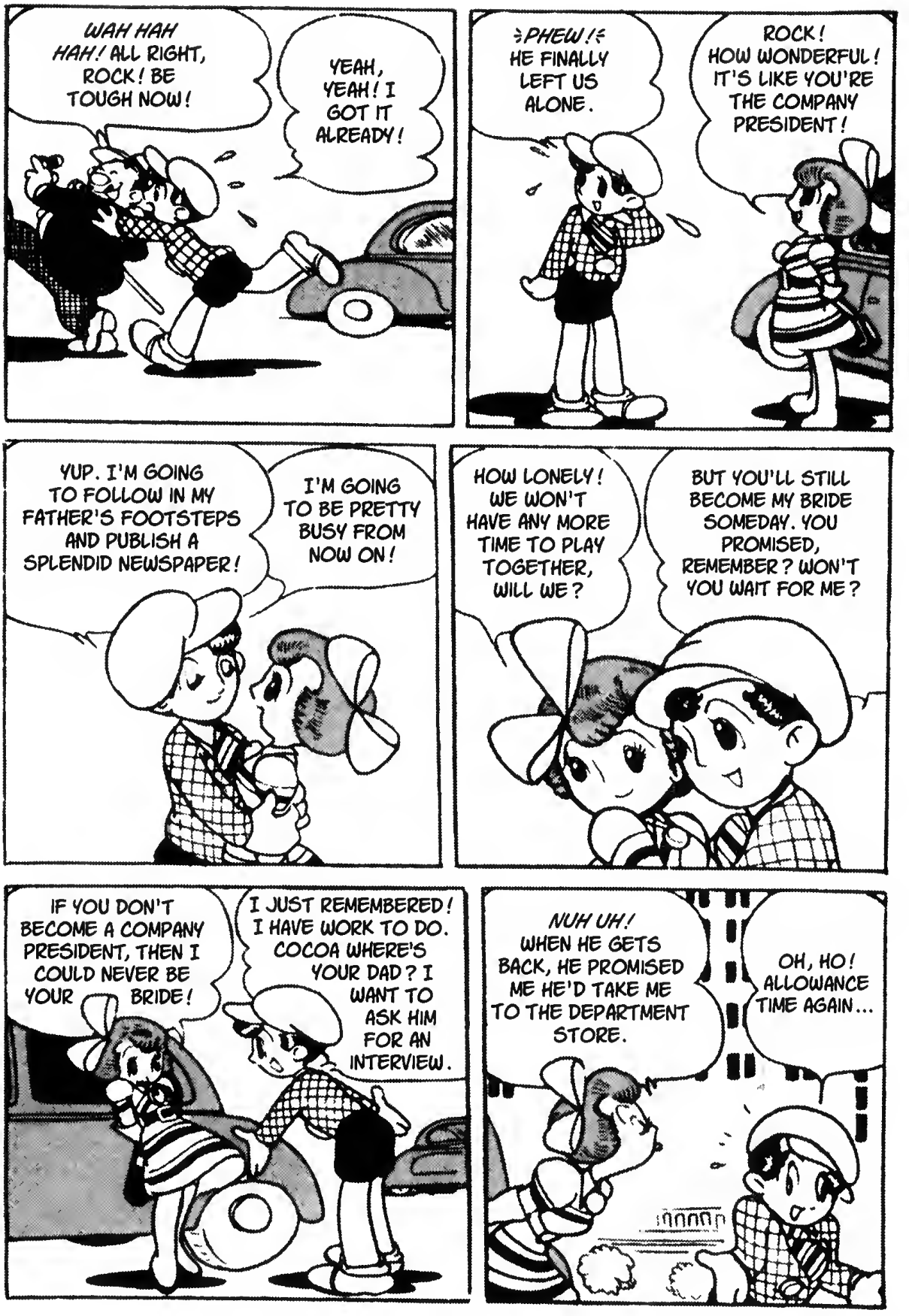
YES!
NO!
BUT, EVERYONE, WHAT I WAS SAYING--
YAH!
HYA!
HEY, YOU JUST SPIT ON MY HEAD!
STILL GRUMBLING MEANINGLESSLY, ARE YOU?
LEAVING YOUR SEAT IS NOT ALLOWED!
RE-RE-RE-RE-REDONOV! ARE YOU TRYING TO INSULT MY COUNTRY, THE NATION OF STAR?
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SITTING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT!

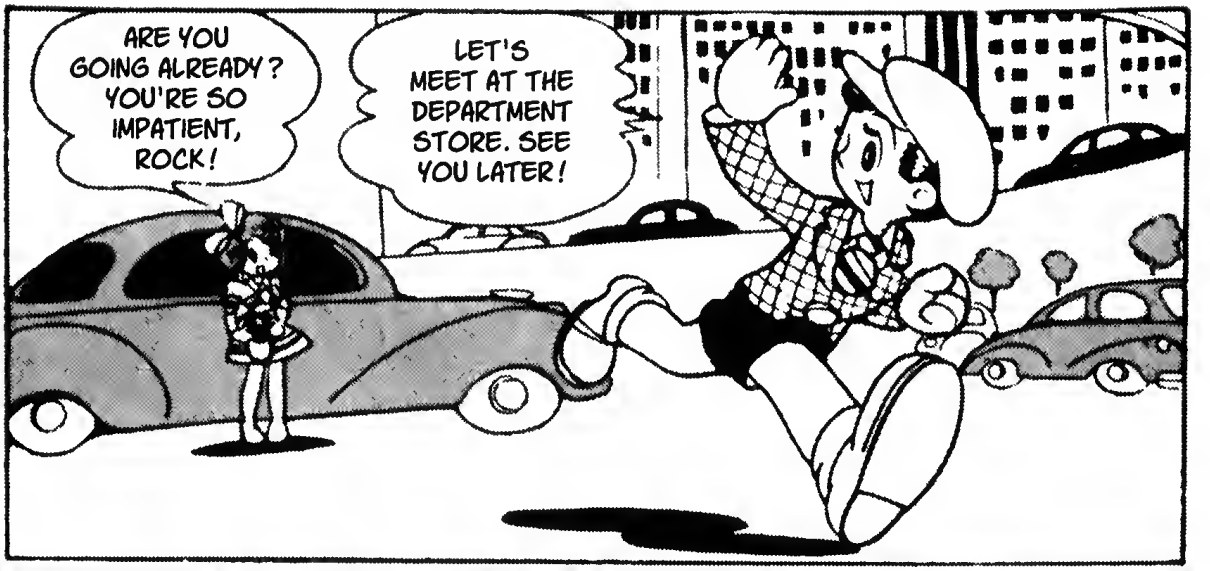

SILENCE! SILENCE!
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH ALREADY! I'M SO HUNGRY, I'M STARVING!
UNFORGIVABLE! WE DECLARE WAR!!
EVEN WHEN I TELL IT TO YOU SO SIMPLY, DO YOU STILL NOT GET IT? I'M ANGRY, BLAST IT! ANGRY!
FINE THEN! IF THAT'S SO, THEN I'VE GOT A PLAN TOO!
SHADDUP! ?OOF!?
NO, WAIT! I BESEECH YOU!
"TELL ME AGAIN BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH!"
HEY! TELL ME AGAIN WHAT HAPPENED!
YOU OUTTA POLISH THAT BALD HEAD OF YOURS MORE OFTEN!
WHAT?! JUST LOOKING AT YOUR ALD HEAD GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

THE TALE OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN'S MAJOR ANXIETY

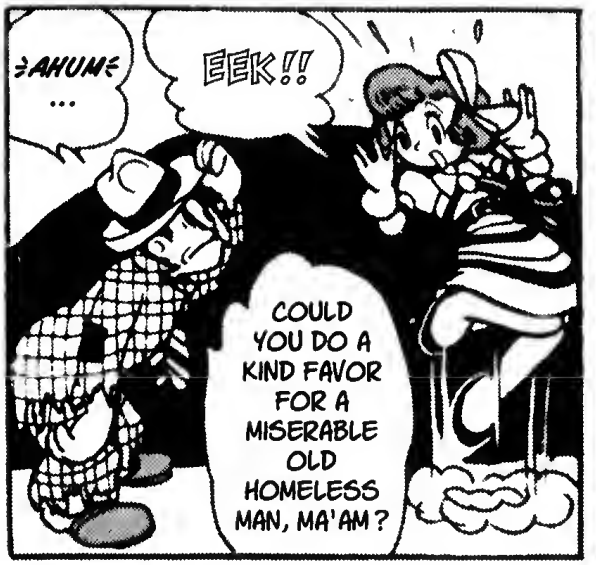

SIGH. NO ONE LISTENED TO WHAT I SAID.
THAT WHAT'S-HIS-NAME FROM JAPAN WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER.
I SLEPT FROM THE START, SO I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THAT PUMPKINHEAD WENT AND CALLED ME A RAPSCALLION!
HEH HEH HEH HEH! MR. REDONOV, THAT MR. NOTARLIN SURE LOOKS LIKE A BOILED OCTOPUS WHEN HE GETS ANGRY. BOY, THAT WAS SOMETHING TO SEE! *HEH HEH HEH!*
...
...
EVEN THOUGH I GOT BASHED FIFTY-THREE TIMES, I ONLY GOT TO HIT BACK TWENTY-EIGHT TIMES! WHY, IT DEFIES THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY!
EVERYONE, PLEASE GO TO THE SHOWER ROOM AND SPLASH SOME COLD WATER ON YOUR HEADS!
INSTEAD OF ACTING HIS AGE, HE'S JUST HYSTERICAL!
THIS MEANS WAR!! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I CAN'T TAKE IT...
NOW, NOW, MR. NOTARLIN, IF YOU WOULD ONLY CALM YOURSELF DOWN.

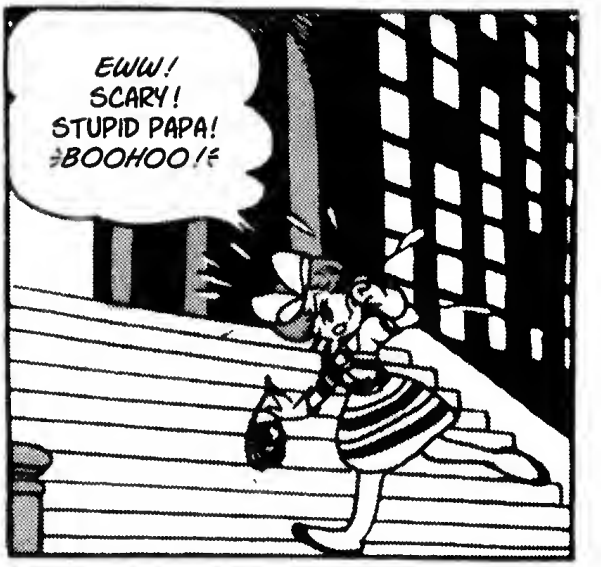
OHH! PAPA'S LATE...
HEY!! MISS COCOA!!
HEY, THERE, ROCK!
COCOA, GET A LOAD OF THIS! I BECAME A NEWSPAPER REPORTER TODAY!
SINCE ROCK'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE WORKING NOW, I'VE DECIDED TO LET HIM FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS AND STUDY TO BE A REPORTER! WAH HA HA!
DAD! PLEASE GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE!


WAH HAH HAH! ALL RIGHT, ROCK! BE TOUGH NOW!
YEAH, YEAH! I GOT IT ALREADY!
≒PHEW!≒ HE FINALLY LEFT US ALONE.
ROCK! HOW WONDERFUL! IT'S LIKE YOU'RE THE COMPANY PRESIDENT!
YUP. I'M GOING TO FOLLOW IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS AND PUBLISH A SPLENDID NEWSPAPER!
I'M GOING TO BE PRETTY BUSY FROM NOW ON!
HOW LONELY! WE WON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME TO PLAY TOGETHER, WILL WE?
BUT YOU'LL STILL BECOME MY BRIDE SOMEDAY. YOU PROMISED, REMEMBER? WON'T YOU WAIT FOR ME?
IF YOU DON'T BECOME A COMPANY PRESIDENT, THEN I COULD NEVER BE YOUR BRIDE!
I JUST REMEMBERED! I HAVE WORK TO DO. COCOA WHERE'S YOUR DAD? I WANT TO ASK HIM FOR AN INTERVIEW.
NUH UH! WHEN HE GETS BACK, HE PROMISED ME HE'D TAKE ME TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE.
OH, HO! ALLOWANCE TIME AGAIN...

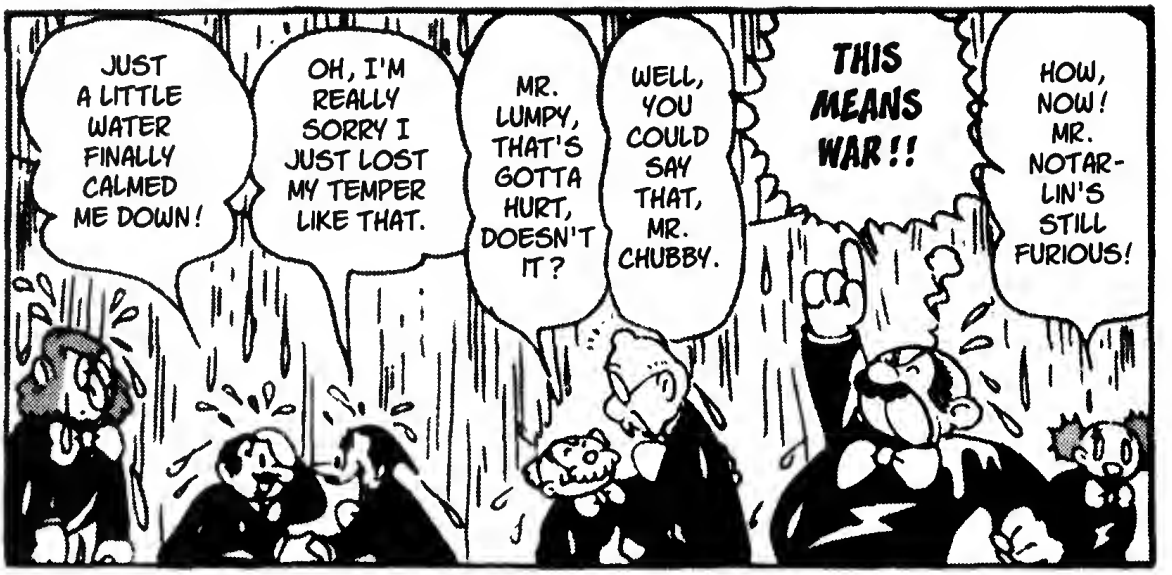

ARE YOU GOING ALREADY? YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT, ROCK!
LET'S MEET AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE. SEE YOU LATER!

IT'S ALREADY FOUR O'CLOCK! OH, STUPID PAPA... ≠SNIFF.≠

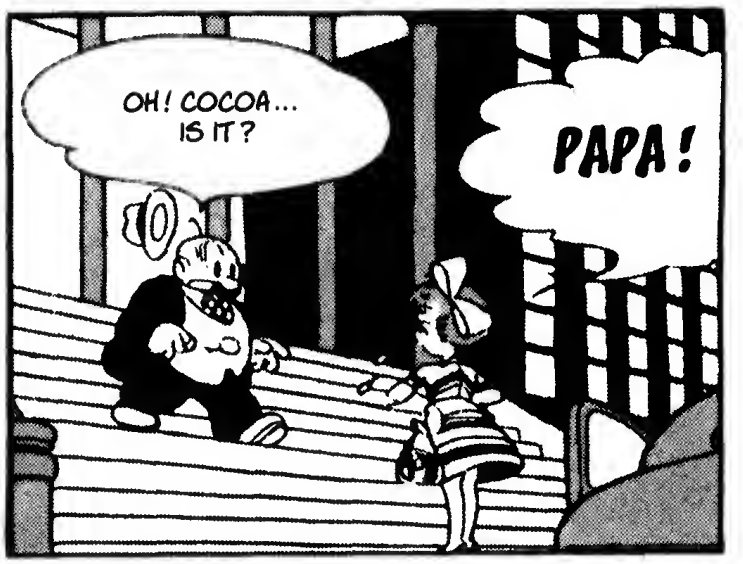

≠AHUM≠ ...
EEK!!
COULD YOU DO A KIND FAVOR FOR A MISERABLE OLD HOMELESS MAN, MA'AM?

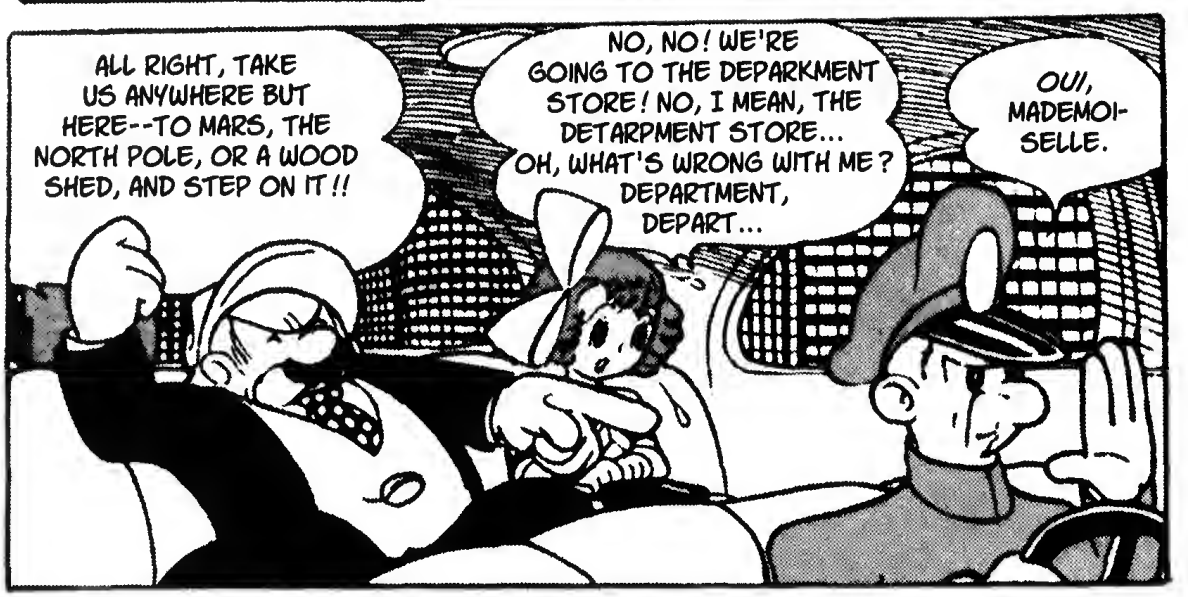

EWW! SCARY! STUPID PAPA! ≠BOOHOO!≠

ALL WORKED UP PERSONS PLEASE GO TO THE SHOWER ROOMS AND GET SOME COLD WATER ON YOUR HEADS...
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I CAN'T TAKE IT...
THIS MEANS WAR!!
FSSHH!


JUST A LITTLE WATER FINALLY CALMED ME DOWN!
OH, I'M REALLY SORRY I JUST LOST MY TEMPER LIKE THAT.
MR. LUMPY, THAT'S GOTTA HURT, DOESN'T IT?
WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT, MR. CHUBBY.
THIS MEANS WAR!!
HOW, NOW! MR. NOTAR-LIN'S STILL FURIOUS!

WAR!


OH! COCOA... IS IT?
PAPA!


ALL RIGHT, TAKE US ANYWHERE BUT HERE--TO MARS, THE NORTH POLE, OR A WOOD SHED, AND STEP ON IT!!
NO, NO! WE'RE GOING TO THE DEPARKMENT STORE! NO, I MEAN, THE DETARPMENT STORE... OH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? DEPARTMENT, DEPART...
OUI, MADEMOI-SELLE.

COCOA, PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THE AGONY I'M IN. OHH! OHH!
HAH! PAPA, YOU DON'T EVEN THINK AN OUNCE ABOUT MY FEELINGS, DO YOU?!
I WANT TO AVOID A WAR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT... IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT FOOL REDONOV!
FINE, THEN, PAPA! DO AS YOU PLEASE! AND I WAITED UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK!
PLEASE BE QUIET FOR AWHILE. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ME TO BE THINKING ABOUT THAT!
I DON'T CARE!
I FEEL LIKE CRYING, SO I'LL CRY ALL I WANT!!
I...I UNDERSTAND. ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!
I WAS BAD. NOW STOP CRYING...
TURN BACK! I HATE THE DEPART-MENT STORE!!
SOMEONE GIVE US A HAND HERE, AND LET US GET OUT!
TRE
RAND THUG

THANKS TO YOU MY COMPLEXION'S RUINED!
SHE ONLY CARES ABOUT MONEY.
HUFF PUFF
WELL, NOW, HOW ABOUT THIS GRIMM DOLL? YOU PUSH THE BUTTON AND GOLDEN ROSES AND FROGS COME OUT OF ITS MOUTH.
MUSICS
ADORABLE ANIMALS AVAILABLE AT YOUR REQUEST, EVEN HIPPOS, CROCODILES, ELEPHANTS, OR GORILLAS.
RIDICULOUS! WHAT DO I WANT WITH A GORILLA?!
THIS INSTRUMENT IS AN AUTOMATIC ORCHESTRA.
SHOP
HERE IT IS! NOW, MY ALLOWANCE...
EQUIPMENT
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER?
THEY SUIT YOU FINELY.
THOSE ARE THE BEST ITEMS WE'VE GOT!
MOVE IT! MOVE IT!
SHE HAS MADE A DECISION.
THAT'S IT! I'LL FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THAT REDONOV IS THINKING.
PAPA!!
OH, RIGHT! HOW MUCH?
I FOUND YOU AT LAST, MR. NOTARLIN!
AHH, ALL TOGETHER THAT'S $9645.
MR. NOTA-RLIN!
EHH?! NINE THOUSAND... YUH-YUH-YUH-YUH...
THESE ARE THE BEST IN THIS STORE!
HELP! SHE'S GOING TO TURN ME INTO A HOBO!
DO YOU HAVE A STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS?
YOU TALK A LOT FOR A KID!
WELL? EVEN A SINGLE WORD IS FINE!

DRAT! OF ALL THE TIMES FOR THE INK TO RUN OUT!
AAH! I'M SOOO SORRY!
SPLITCH
EEEK!
AAH!
GRRR! OUTRAGEOUS!
WAIT!
BONK
I BOTCHED UP!
THE FEE FOR DAMAGES COMES TO $2567!
PLEASE PAY FOR COMPENSATION. THIS IS A $6317 ITEM BOUGHT AT THIS SHOP!
AND WE STILL HAVEN'T RECEIVED THE $9645 DOLLARS FOR THE SKI EQUIPMENT.

MR. HIC
YOWCH!
WHOA! THIS IS SOME-BODY'S BED!
IN THIS WHOLE WIDE WORLD, THERE AIN'T A SINGLE PLACE THAT I CAN GET A DECENT SLEEP.
OY! HERE, HERE! THIS IS NO PLACE TO BE SLEEPING! AHEM!
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU, JUST LET ME SLEEP HERE. IF YOU WAKE ME UP I'LL BE STARVING.
WELL, BUY SOMETHING TO EAT WITH THIS. SLEEPING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS IS POSION FOR YOUR HEALTH.
SAY...
THREE BITS CAFÉ

≠MUNCH≠
≠MUNCH≠
≠CRUNCH≠
≠CRUNCH≠
≠CRUNCH≠
SMACK! SMACK!
CHOMP CHOMP
WHO'S THAT? EVEN IF YOU STAND THERE STARING AT ME, I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING!
≠HIC-CUP!≠
I MEAN, I'M A PHILANTHROPIST BY THE NAME OF MR. HIC.
?
PHILAN-THROPIST... THAT MEANS SOMETHING GOOD, RIGHT?
I HELP OUT POOR PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF--≠HICCUP≠--BY GIVING THEM JOBS, YOU SEE? HOW ABOUT IT? YOU'LL TAKE A ONE-TIME JOB, WON'T YOU? ≠HICCUP!≠
THE JOB IS THIS...
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!!
THROW A BOMB INTO THE HOUSE OF SOME GUY CALLED NOTARLIN?! THAT'S A PRETTY SCARY JOB!
IT'S AN EASY THING. NOW, THIS IS YOUR FEE, AND HERE ARE SOME SUCTION GLOVES.
IT'S A TIME BOMB!
TIC TIC
TIC TIC

I'M SO EMBARRASED, I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE!
HEY, KID, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I COULDN'T GET AN INTERVIEW WITH NOTARLIN.
OH. OH! A CUB REPORTER, ARE YOU?
WELL, I'VE GOT SOME GOOD NEWS TO TELL YOU. TAKE THESE GLOVES AND GO TO NOTARLIN'S MANSION, SEE? THAT WAY YOU CAN EAVESDROP REAL GOOD!
THAT'S AN ODD THING TO ASK, BUT... ALL RIGHT, MISTER, I'LL TRY IT! THANKS!
SO NOW, IN RETURN, I NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR. I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS TIME B--I MEAN THIS WATCH WITH YOU AND TOSS IT INTO THE HOUSE!
... THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD TO ME. BUT... I GUESS I'D BE GOOD AT IT.

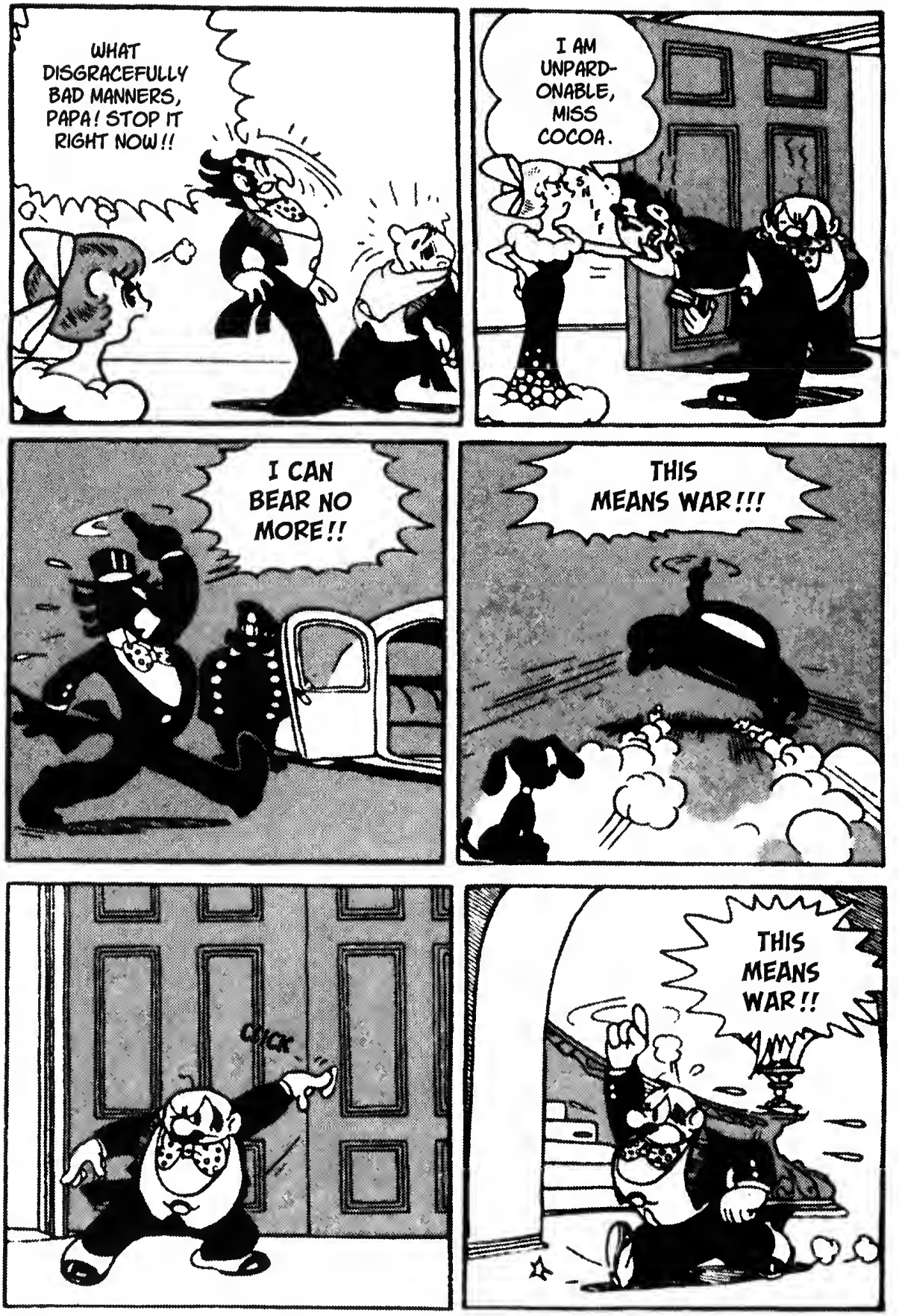
THIS IS MISTER NOTARLIN'S MANSION.
OH! IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOME VISITORS HERE TOO!
WILL I BE ABLE TO CLIMB OKAY, I WONDER?
SHKK
HEY, THIS IS NOTHING! I'M LIKE A GECKO!
...TRY NOT TO FALL!
SOMEBODY'S HERE!!

REDONOV ADVOCATES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

I CAN HEAR COCOA'S CHIRPING VOICE.
OH! MR. REDONOV IS HERE!
WAH HA HA HA! WAH HA HA! HA HA! WA HA HA! HAH!
OH, MY! BUT WON'T YOU TELL ME YOUR OPINION OF MY SKI WEAR?
ALLOW ME TO HAVE A PEEK AT IT!
HOW'S THIS?
OH, WONDERFUL!! IT'S LOVELY!
HUH? YOU MUST BE A MAN OF GOOD TASTE! I DON'T GET IT ALL.

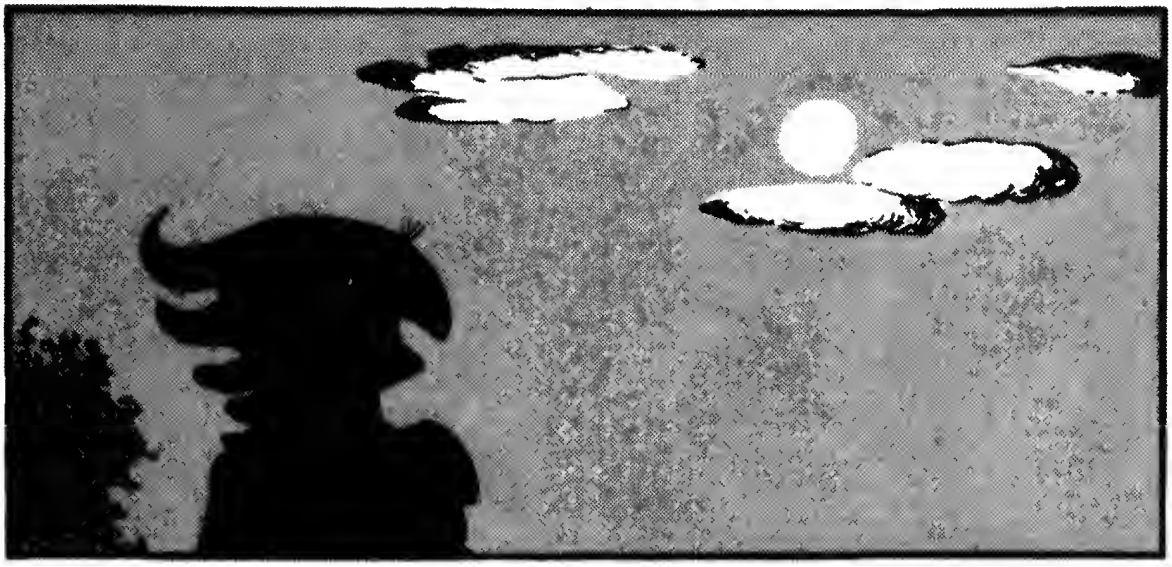
DRESSED LIKE THIS, YOU LOOK LIKE A SPITTING IMAGE OF *POPONYA!*
POPONYA? IS THAT SOME LADY OF YOUR COUNTRY?
THAT'S RIGHT. SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE.
OH! HE'S THAT OBSTINATE OLD GOAT, RIGHT?
DON'T BE SO FOOLISH! EVEN POPONYA IS A GREAT SCIENTIST!
OH!
SHE'S EVEN GREATER THAN EDISON.
SHE HAS ALREADY CREATED MANY GRAND INVENTIONS.
I DON'T LIKE SUCH WOMEN VERY MUCH.

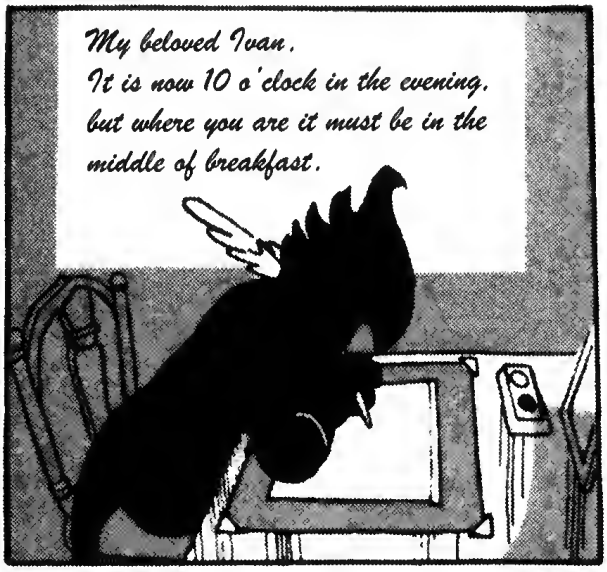
IT'S BEST FOR WOMEN TO REMAIN LADYLIKE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. MY OWN DAUGHTER, IF I DON'T SAY SO MYSELF--
OH, NO, MR. NOTARLIN. WOMEN BEING OUTDONE BY MEN, IN THIS DAY AND AGE...
... IS UNAC-CEP-TABLE!
MAKE THEM WOMEN! GREAT SCHOLARS, GREAT COMP-OSERS...
GREAT ATHLETES, GREAT STARS... ≥MUNCH≤ ≥MUNCH≤ ≥MUNCH≤
MY COUNTRY WILL NOT LACK EVEN IF WE DON'T ALLOW WOMEN TO DO ANYTHING! ≥MUNCH≤ ≥MUNCH≤ ≥MUNCH≤
PARDON MY RUDENESS, BUT YOUR OPINION IS NARROW-MINDED. THE RESULT WILL ONLY BE DAUGHTERS WHO KNOW NOTHING OF THE WORLD.
Y-YOU WANT TO DISPARAGE MY DAUGHTER, DO YOU?
BECAUSE YOU MAKE INSINUATIONS ABOUT MY COUNTRY!
YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THAT!

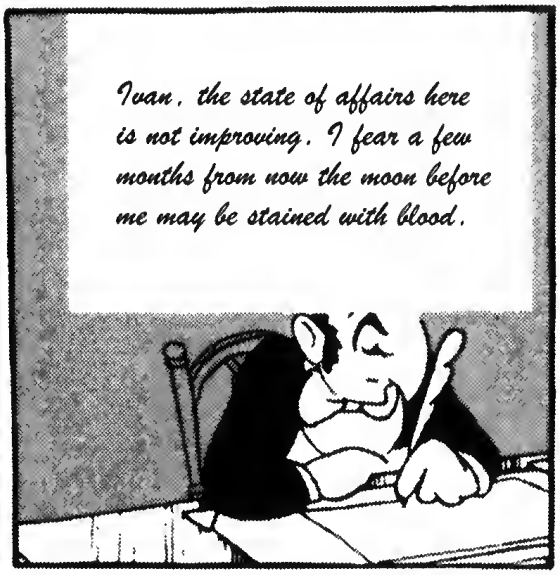

WHAT DISGRACEFULLY BAD MANNERS, PAPA! STOP IT RIGHT NOW!!
I AM UNPARD-ONABLE, MISS COCOA.
SNIFF
I CAN BEAR NO MORE!!
THIS MEANS WAR!!!
CLICK
THIS MEANS WAR!!

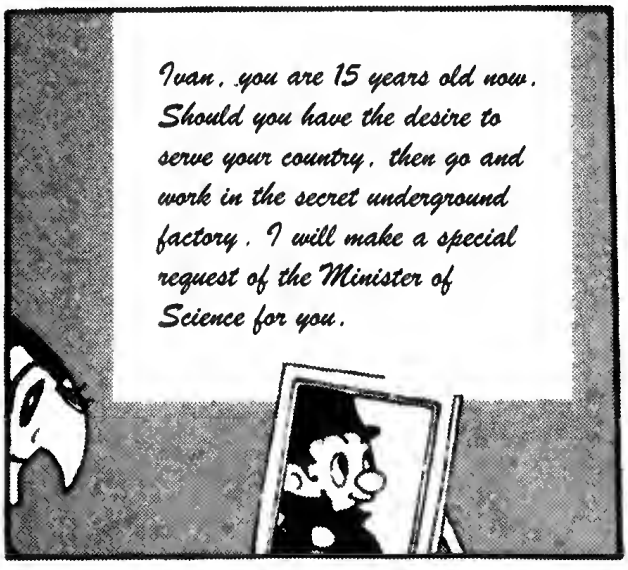
WHY DON'T MEN DO ANYTHING BUT FIGHT!?
HELLO? IT'S AN EMERGENCY! PUT ME THROUGH TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE!
PAPA NEVER HAS A THOUGHT IN HIS HEAD ABOUT ME! I'M ALL ALONE!
YES, IS THIS THE SECRETARY? REDONOV WAS JUST HERE!
HE FINALLY PULLED THE LAST STRAW! HUH?! WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
FINE! I'LL JUST LEAVE HOME!
SSPOP
THUMP
IF YOU'D JUST WAIT-- UH, NO, MR. SECRETARY, I WASN'T SPEAKING TO YOU!
I DON'T CARE! SNIFF! I HATE YOU, PAPA!

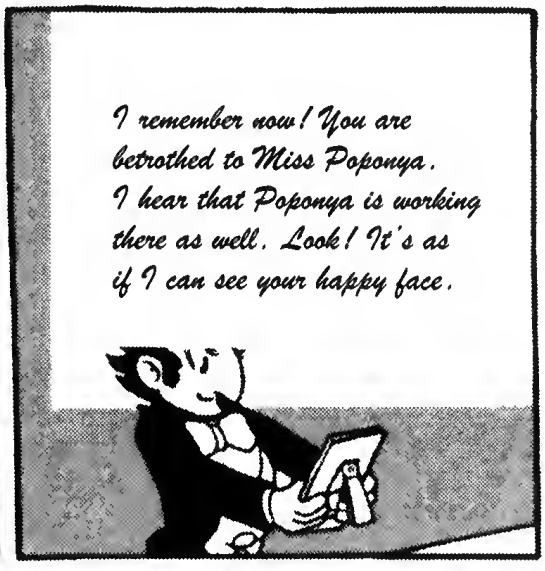
EEEEK!!!
HANDS UP!
MR. CHAIRMAN, YOU AREN'T INJURED, ARE YOU?
I SWALLOWED THE PHONE!
WHY, ISN'T THAT ROCK?!
MISS COCOA IS IT?
HE WAS CARRYING SOME STRANGE OBJECTS.
AAH! THIS IS A TIME BOMB!!
I...I'M TELLING YOU I'M NOT A SPY!
FINE, THEN YOU'LL COME WITH US TO THE STATION!

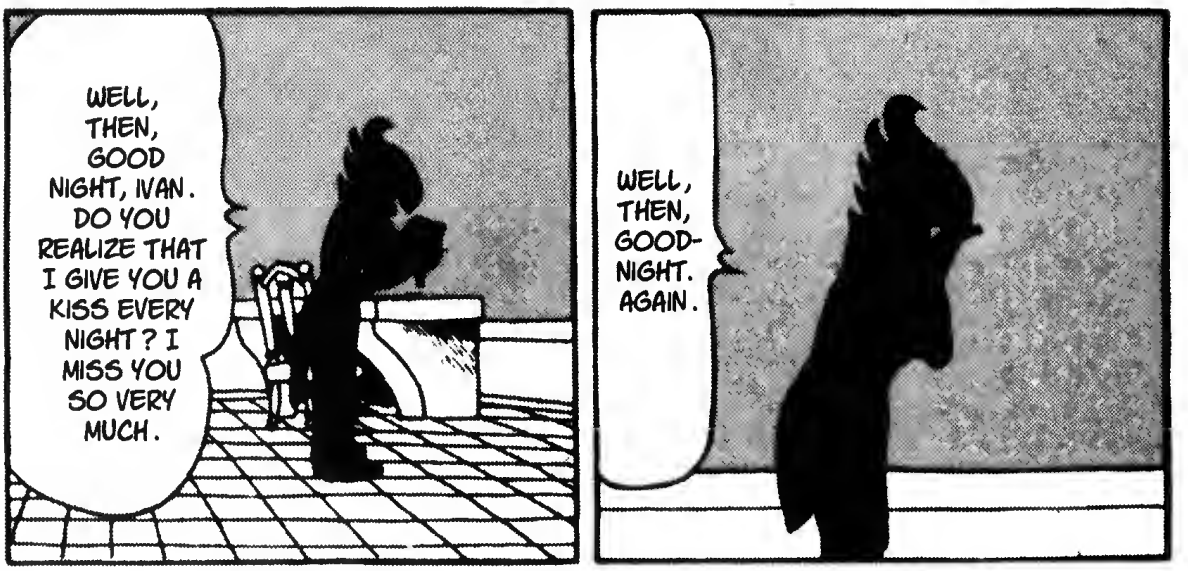



My beloved Ivan.
It is now 10 o'clock in the evening, but where you are it must be in the middle of breakfast.

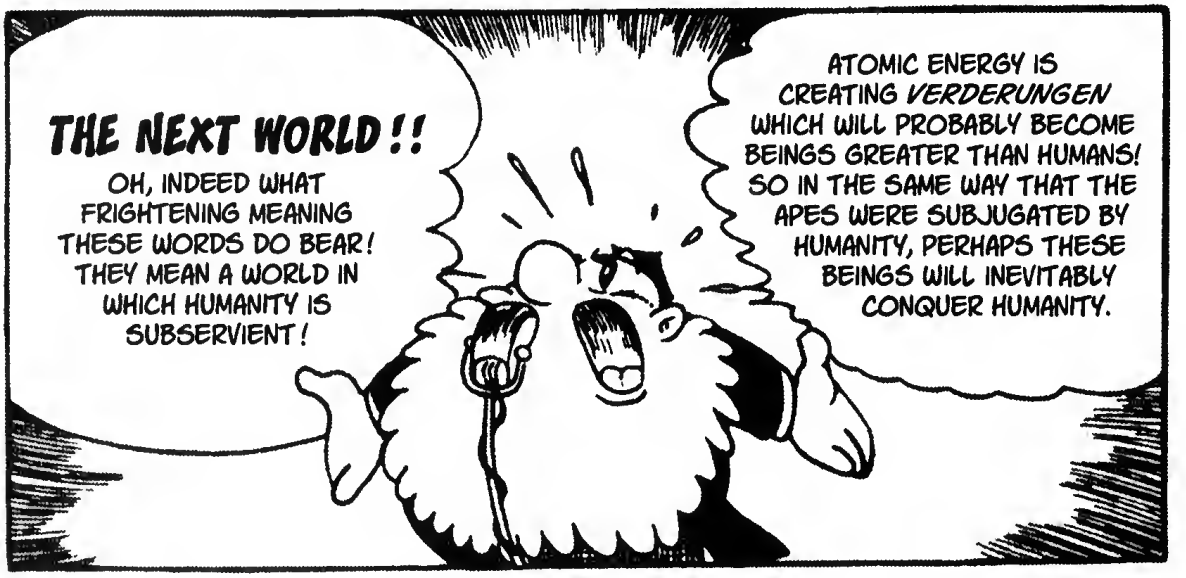

Ivan, the state of affairs here is not improving. I fear a few months from now the moon before me may be stained with blood.

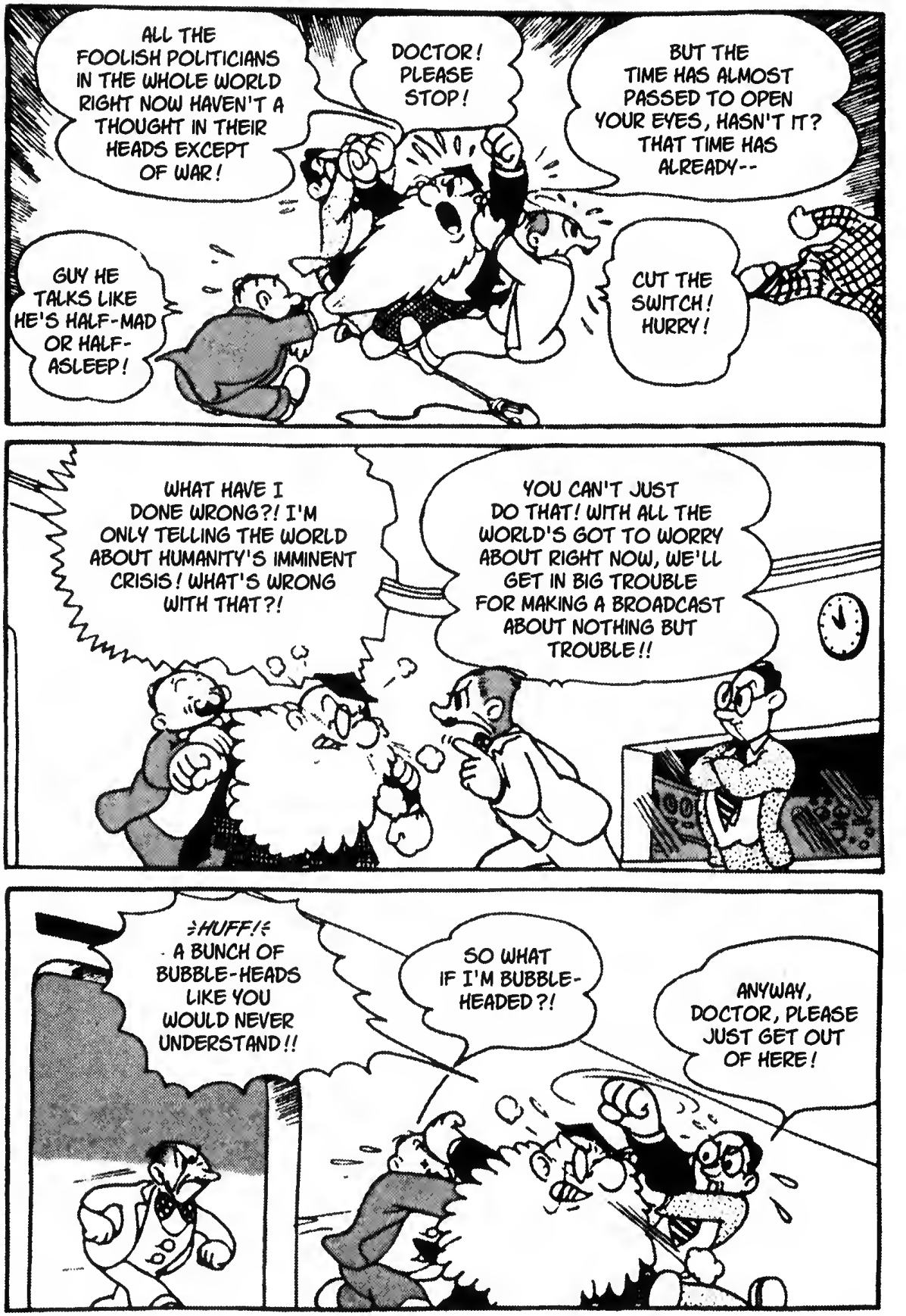

Ivan, you are 15 years old now. Should you have the desire to serve your country, then go and work in the secret underground factory. I will make a special request of the Minister of Science for you.


I remember now! You are betrothed to Miss Poponya. I hear that Poponya is working there as well. Look! It's as if I can see your happy face.


WELL, THEN, GOOD NIGHT, IVAN. DO YOU REALIZE THAT I GIVE YOU A KISS EVERY NIGHT? I MISS YOU SO VERY MUCH.
WELL, THEN, GOOD-NIGHT. AGAIN.

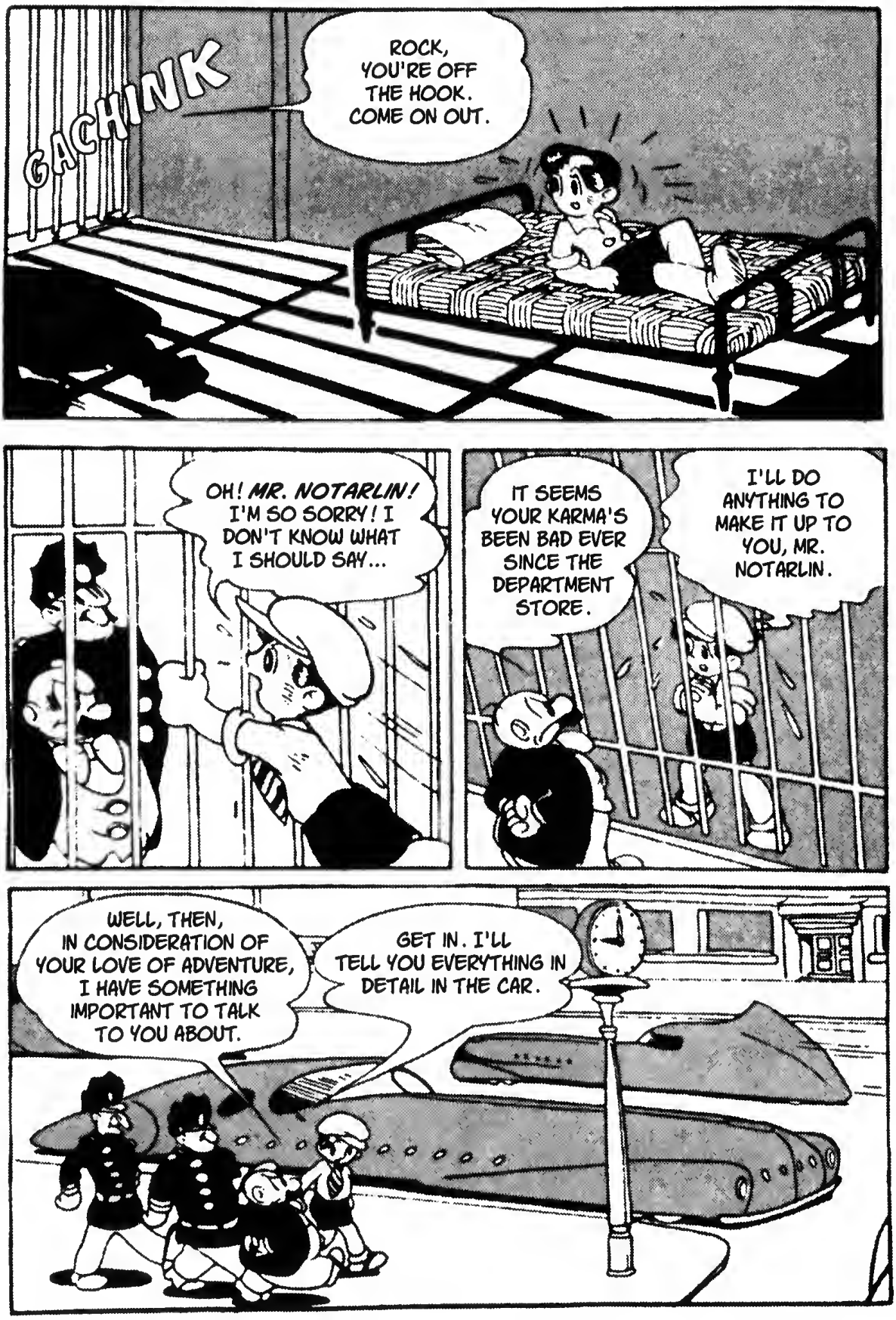
I APPEAL TO THE WHOLE WORLD! THE TIME OF HUMANITY'S EXTINCTION DRAWS NEARER WITH EVERY MOMENT.
AS I HAVE ASKED BEFORE, WHAT TALE IS TOLD BY THE EVOLUTION OF THOSE CREATURES ON HORSESHOE ISLAND? OH, IT IS THE TALE OF...


THE NEXT WORLD!! OH, INDEED WHAT FRIGHTENING MEANING THESE WORDS DO BEAR! THEY MEAN A WORLD IN WHICH HUMANITY IS SUBSERVIENT!
ATOMIC ENERGY IS CREATING *VERDERUNGEN* WHICH WILL PROBABLY BECOME BEINGS GREATER THAN HUMANS! SO IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE APES WERE SUBJUGATED BY HUMANITY, PERHAPS THESE BEINGS WILL INEVITABLY CONQUER HUMANITY.


ALL THE FOOLISH POLITICIANS IN THE WHOLE WORLD RIGHT NOW HAVEN'T A THOUGHT IN THEIR HEADS EXCEPT OF WAR!
DOCTOR! PLEASE STOP!
BUT THE TIME HAS ALMOST PASSED TO OPEN YOUR EYES, HASN'T IT? THAT TIME HAS ALREADY--
GUY HE TALKS LIKE HE'S HALF-MAD OR HALF-ASLEEP!
CUT THE SWITCH! HURRY!
WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?! I'M ONLY TELLING THE WORLD ABOUT HUMANITY'S IMMINENT CRISIS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
YOU CAN'T JUST DO THAT! WITH ALL THE WORLD'S GOT TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW, WE'LL GET IN BIG TROUBLE FOR MAKING A BROADCAST ABOUT NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!!
≠HUFF!≠ A BUNCH OF BUBBLE-HEADS LIKE YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND!!
SO WHAT IF I'M BUBBLE-HEADED?!
ANYWAY, DOCTOR, PLEASE JUST GET OUT OF HERE!

ROCK GETS THROWN IN JAIL

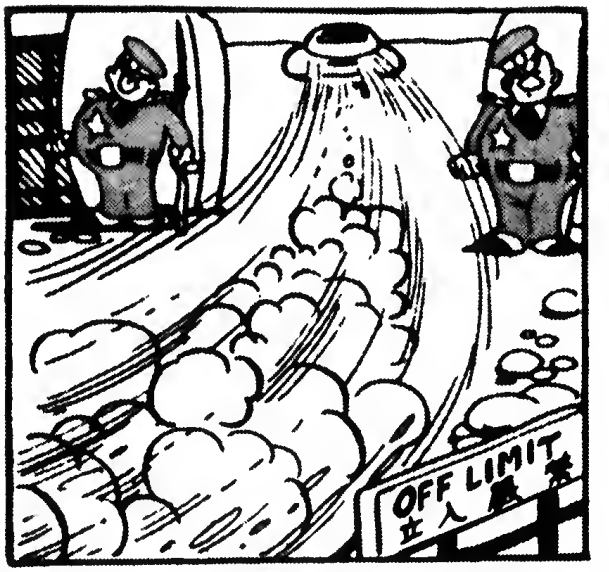
A ROOM IN METRO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
YOU'RE MISTAKEN! THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A HOBO IN THE PARK!
AND IN THE NEXT ROOM...
SIR, I DUNNO A SINGLE THING! A MAN CALLED HIC JUST GAVE ME TEN YEN AND ASKED ME TO DO IT FOR HIM!
WELL, THEN, GENTLEMEN, WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THIS CASE?
I THINK THE BOY'S STILL GOT A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD. WE OUGHT TO LET HIM GO.
AND FURTHER, THE KID IS THE SON OF THE PRESIDENT OF A MAJOR NEWSPAPER.
AND THE HOBO?
PUT HIM IN THE JOINT OF COURSE!
ANYWAY, LET'S CHECK OUT THIS HIC FELLOW.
NO, NO! HOW COME YOU FORGAVE THAT KID AND YOU'RE ONLY THROWING ME IN THE SLAMMER?!
BECAUSE YOU'RE A TRAMP!

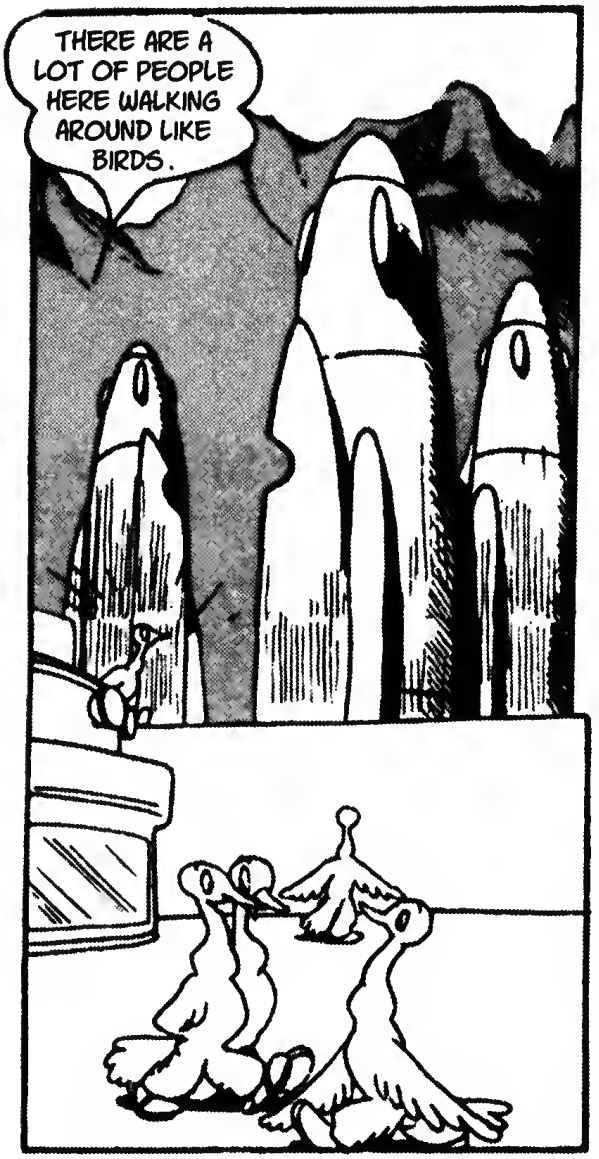

GACHINK
ROCK, YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK. COME ON OUT.
OH! MR. NOTARLIN! I'M SO SORRY! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD SAY...
IT SEEMS YOUR KARMA'S BEEN BAD EVER SINCE THE DEPARTMENT STORE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU, MR. NOTARLIN.
WELL, THEN, IN CONSIDERATION OF YOUR LOVE OF ADVENTURE, I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
GET IN. I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING IN DETAIL IN THE CAR.

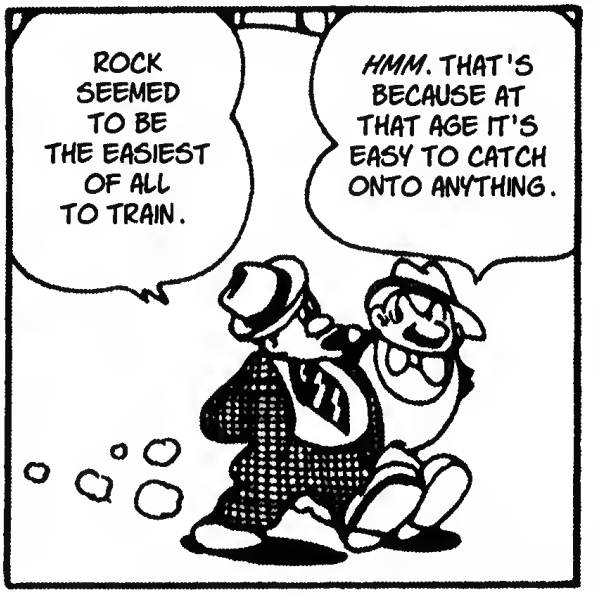
AFTER THAT, WHERE DID ROCK GO, WHAT SORT OF THINGS DID HE HAVE TO LEARN, AND WHAT WAS HE TOLD ABOUT?

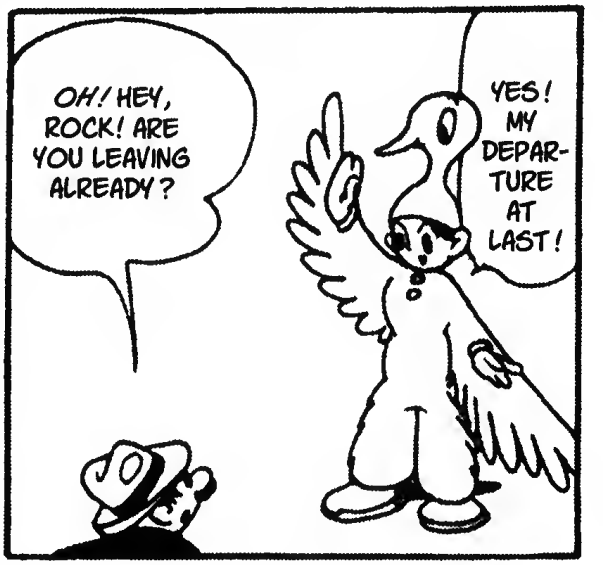
NO ONE KNOWS.

TWO TO THREE MONTHS AFTER THIS, IN AN OFF-LIMITS ZONE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.





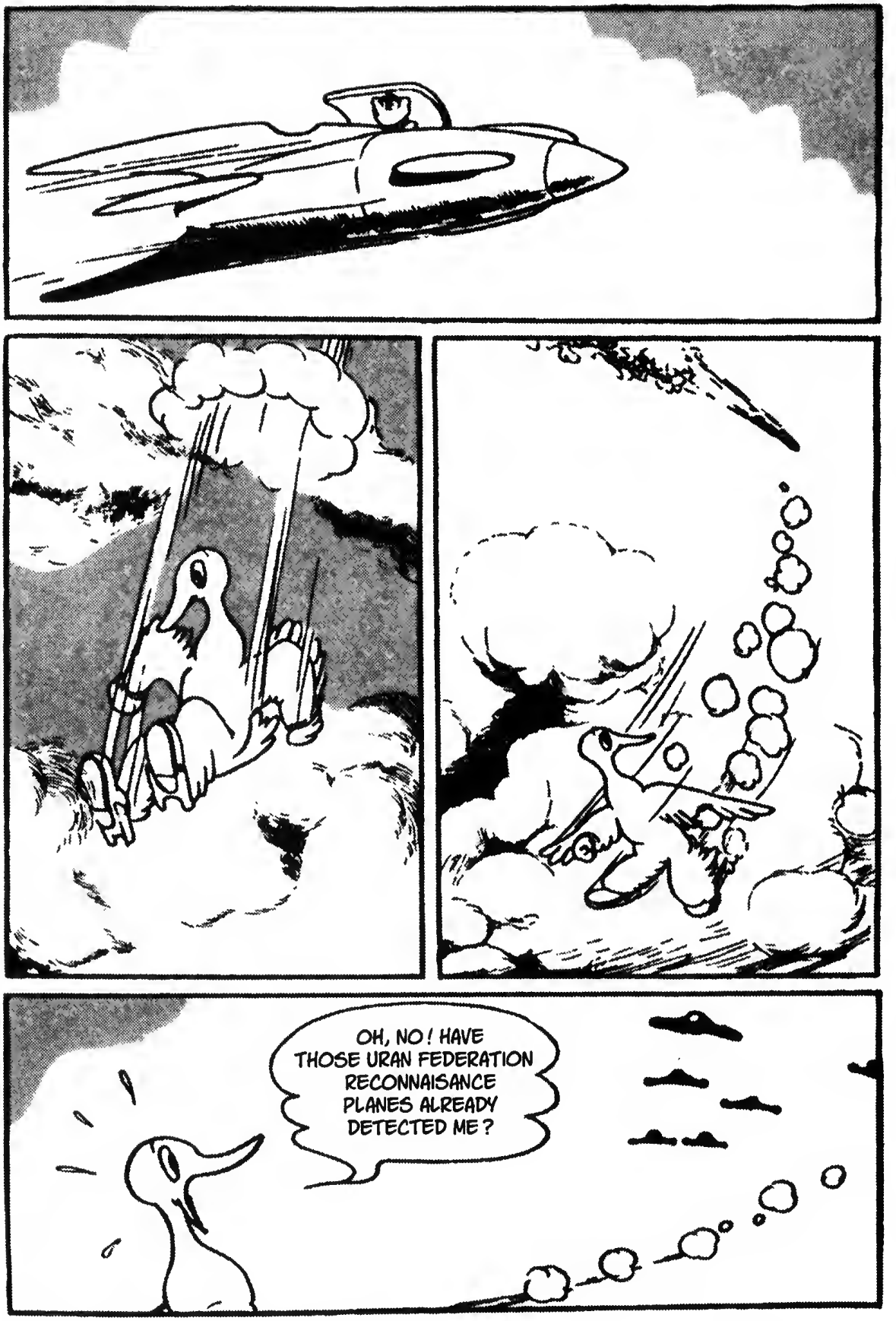




WELL, THEN, I ASK YOU TO DO YOUR BEST, ROCK. BE A HERO FOR YOUR COUN-TRY.
SIR! IT IS AN HONOR.
THIS IS MEDICINE TO KILL THE SHOCK OF BLAST OFF. DRINK IT.
...DAD, RIGHT NOW I'M RIDING OUT ON THE ADVENTURE OF THE CENTURY!
WOOOOSH
BOOM
BOOM
BADABOOM
BOOM

UUH...
HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU ARE NOW ALREADY OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN!
HUH?!
OH! THIS WATCH HAS BECOME A RECEIVER!
THIS IS A LONG TRIP. PLEASE LISTEN TO SOME RECORDED MUSIC.
FATHER, YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF PLACE I'M IN, DO YOU?
WE ARE NOW IN THE SKY OVER JAPAN. WE WILL SOON BE OVER THE URAN PLAINS.

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN
ARE YOU PREPARED? WE WILL SOON BE IN THE SKIES OF THE URAN FEDERATION.
YES! I'M ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT SLEEPY.
WELL, THEN. TIME TO ACT LIKE A SWAN, I GUESS!

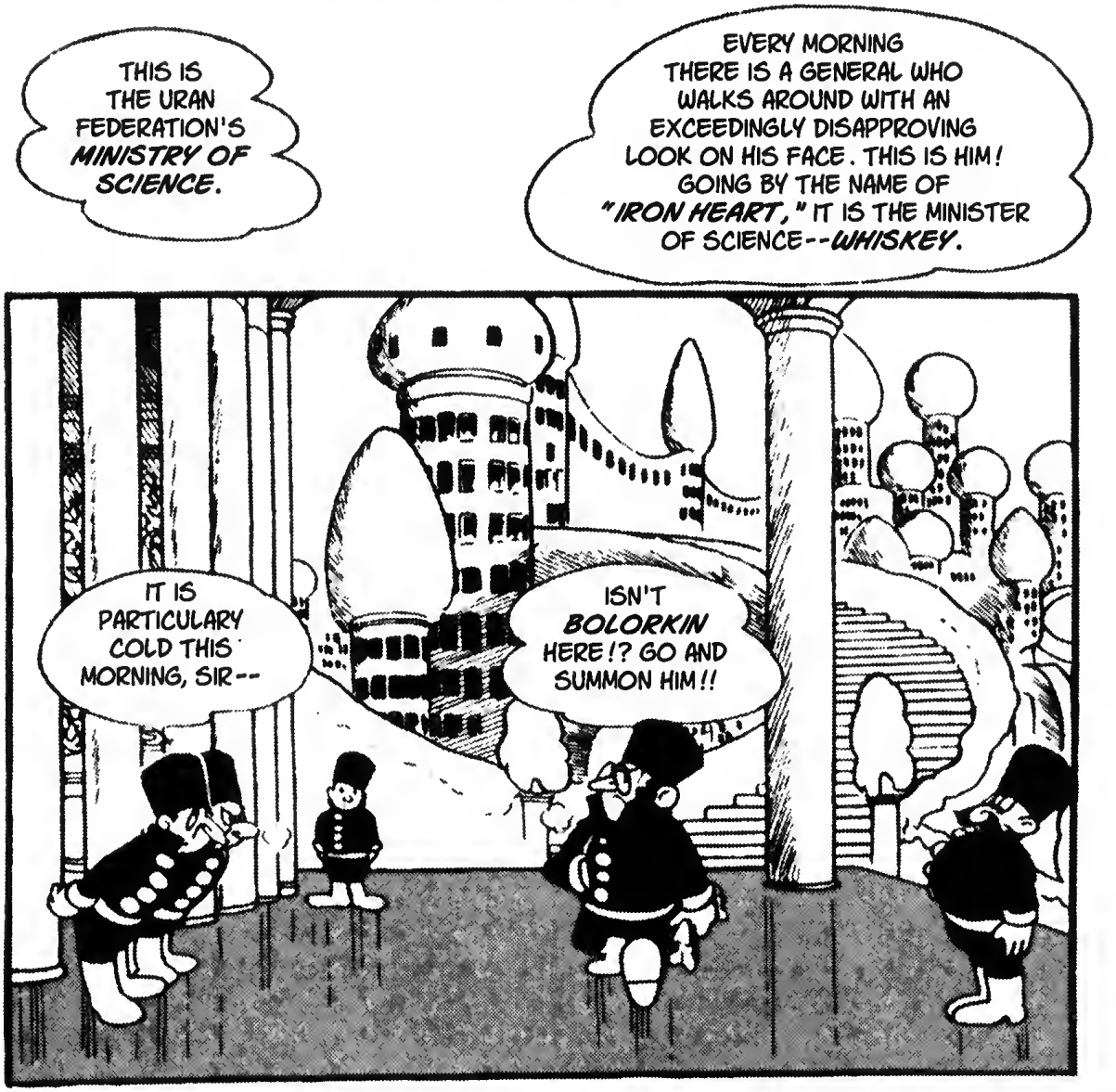

OH, NO! HAVE THOSE URAN FEDERATION RECONNAISANCE PLANES ALREADY DETECTED ME?

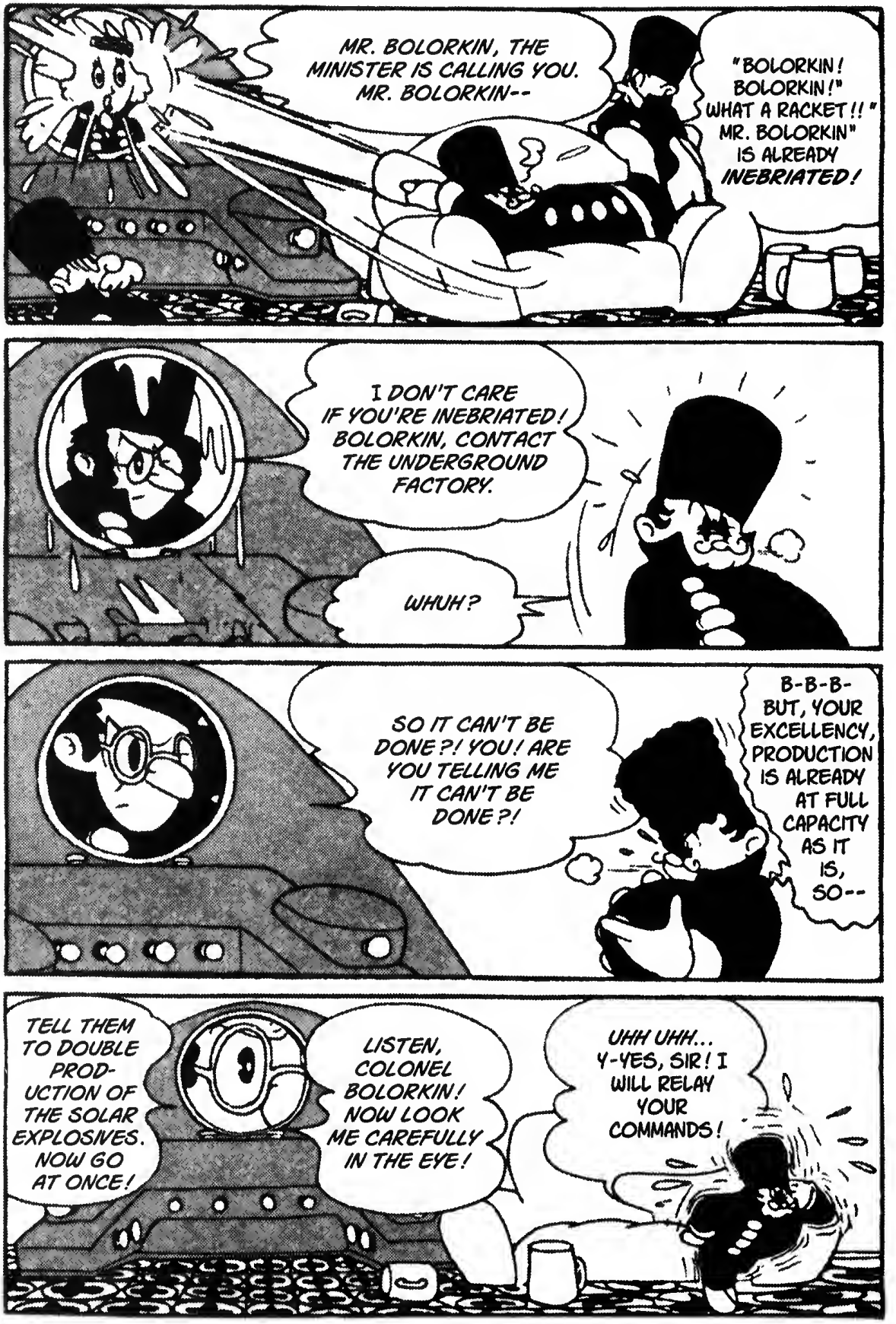
BZZBZZBZZ
ZAP ZAP
VWOOM
BZZBZZ
BABOOM
VOOOM
KA CHINK
IF I'D BEEN A MINUTE LATE GETTING OUT OF THERE, I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER!

IT'S THE URAN FEDERATION CAPITAL!
BANG! BABANG!
I SAW SOME STRANGE BIRD WEARING SHOES, BUT I JUST MISSED HIM!
AM I SAFE?

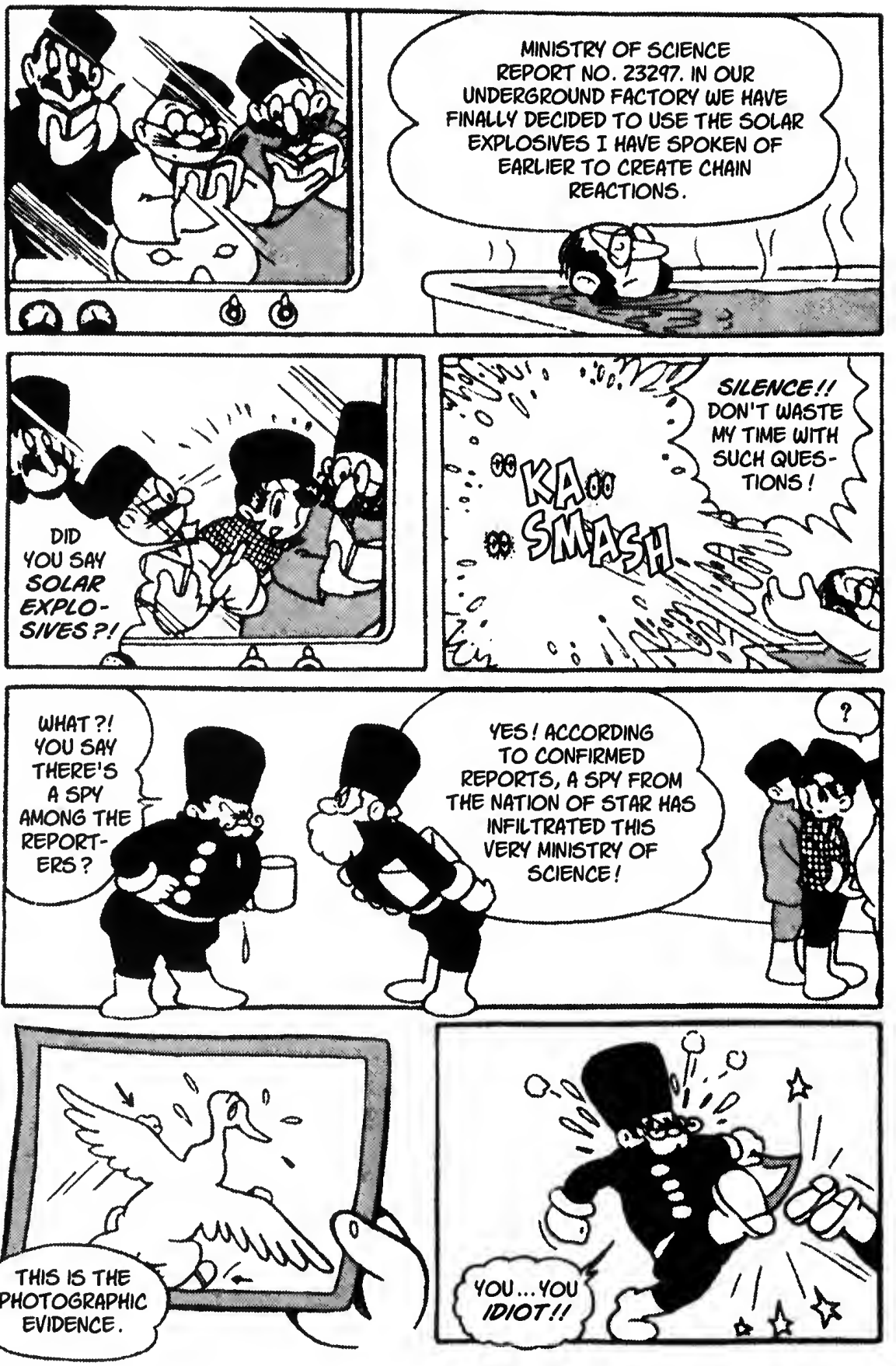
DARK CLOUDS OVER THE URAN FEDERATION

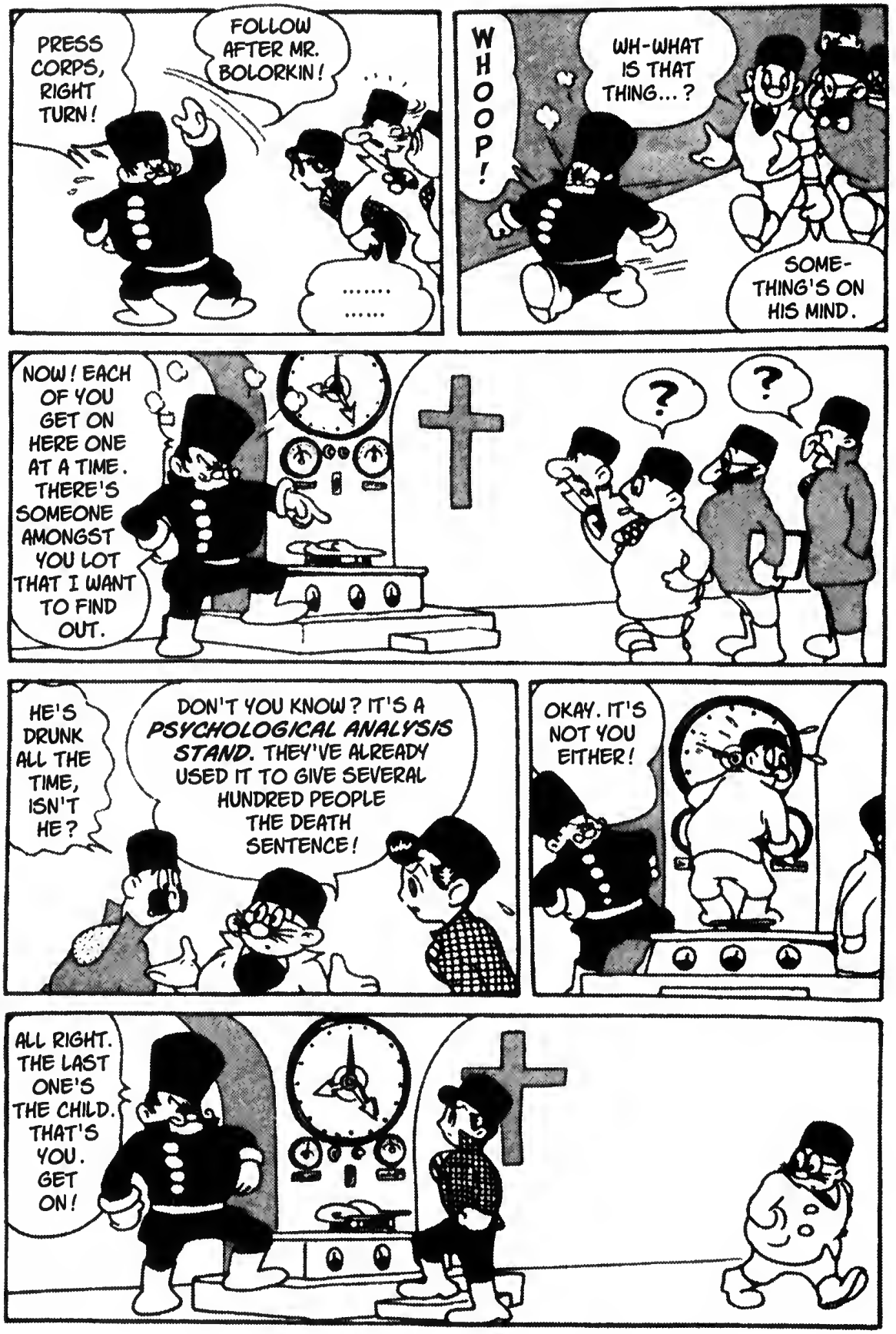
IRON HEART'S MORNING


THIS IS THE URAN FEDERATION'S *MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.*
EVERY MORNING THERE IS A GENERAL WHO WALKS AROUND WITH AN EXCEEDINGLY DISAPPROVING LOOK ON HIS FACE. THIS IS HIM! GOING BY THE NAME OF *"IRON HEART,"* IT IS THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE--*WHISKEY.*
IT IS PARTICULARY COLD THIS MORNING, SIR--
ISN'T *BOLORKIN* HERE!? GO AND SUMMON HIM!!


MR. BOLORKIN, THE MINISTER IS CALLING YOU. MR. BOLORKIN--
"BOLORKIN! BOLORKIN!" WHAT A RACKET!!" MR. BOLORKIN" IS ALREADY INEBRIATED!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE INEBRIATED! BOLORKIN, CONTACT THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY.
WHUH?
SO IT CAN'T BE DONE?! YOU! ARE YOU TELLING ME IT CAN'T BE DONE?!
B-B-B-BUT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRODUCTION IS ALREADY AT FULL CAPACITY AS IT IS, SO--
TELL THEM TO DOUBLE PROD-UCTION OF THE SOLAR EXPLOSIVES. NOW GO AT ONCE!
LISTEN, COLONEL BOLORKIN! NOW LOOK ME CAREFULLY IN THE EYE!
UHH UHH... Y-YES, SIR! I WILL RELAY YOUR COMMANDS!

AAH... AAH... ACHOO! AT-CHOO!
CHOO CHOO CHOO!
TCHOO!
THEY'RE SURE MAKING US WAIT IN A COLD ROOM.
HEY, HEY! IS SOMEBODY FINALLY COMING?
WHEE!
HERE WE GO.
WHEE!
YES! I MANAGED TO GET INTO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!
WHEE!
THE PRESS HAVE ARRIVED.
GOOD. YOU DID FULL BODY SEARCHES, I TAKE IT?

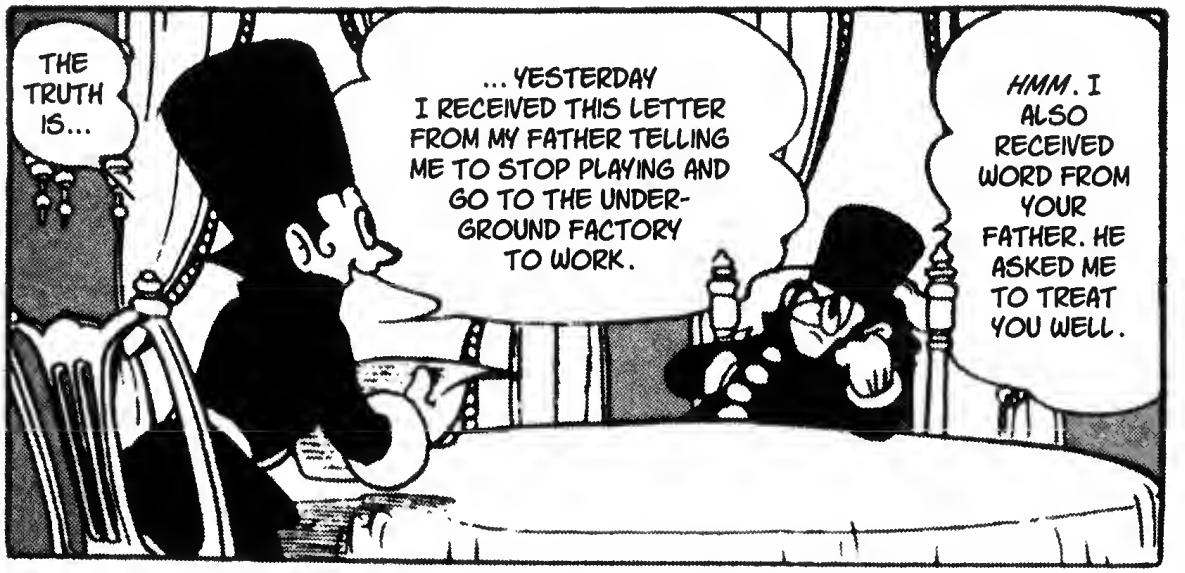

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE REPORT NO. 23297. IN OUR UNDERGROUND FACTORY WE HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO USE THE SOLAR EXPLOSIVES I HAVE SPOKEN OF EARLIER TO CREATE CHAIN REACTIONS.
DID YOU SAY SOLAR EXPLO-SIVES?!
KA SMASH
SILENCE!! DON'T WASTE MY TIME WITH SUCH QUES-TIONS!
WHAT?! YOU SAY THERE'S A SPY AMONG THE REPORT-ERS?
YES! ACCORDING TO CONFIRMED REPORTS, A SPY FROM THE NATION OF STAR HAS INFILTRATED THIS VERY MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!
?
THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE.
YOU...YOU IDIOT!!

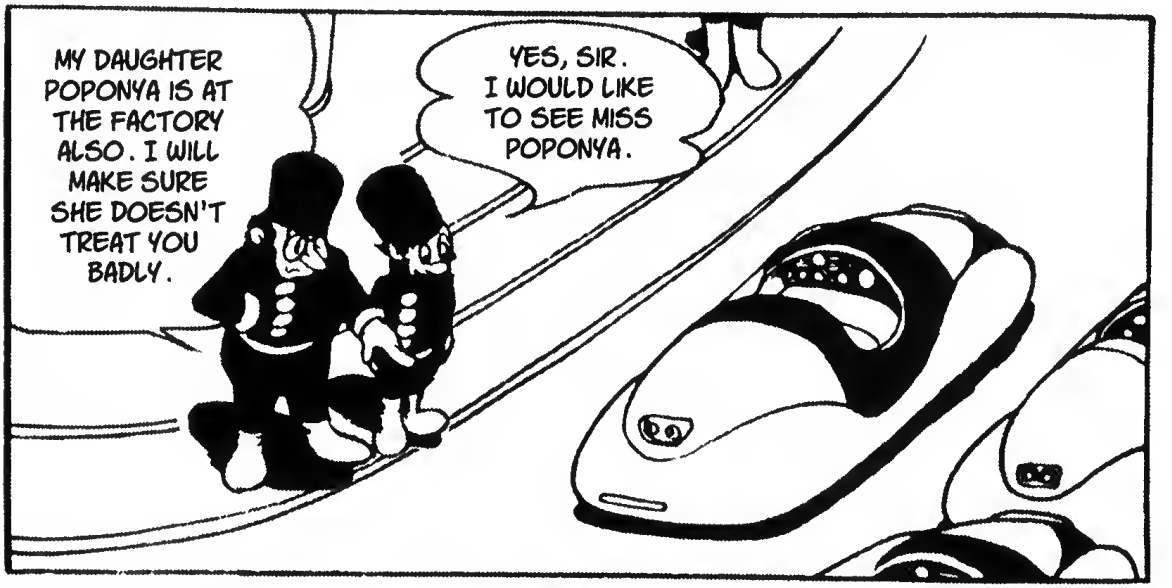

PRESS CORPS, RIGHT TURN!
FOLLOW AFTER MR. BOLORKIN!
. . . .
.....
.....
WHOOP!
WH-WHAT IS THAT THING...?
SOME-THING'S ON HIS MIND.
NOW! EACH OF YOU GET ON HERE ONE AT A TIME. THERE'S SOMEONE AMONGST YOU LOT THAT I WANT TO FIND OUT.
?
?
HE'S DRUNK ALL THE TIME, ISN'T HE?
DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS STAND. THEY'VE ALREADY USED IT TO GIVE SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE THE DEATH SENTENCE!
OKAY. IT'S NOT YOU EITHER!
ALL RIGHT. THE LAST ONE'S THE CHILD. THAT'S YOU. GET ON!

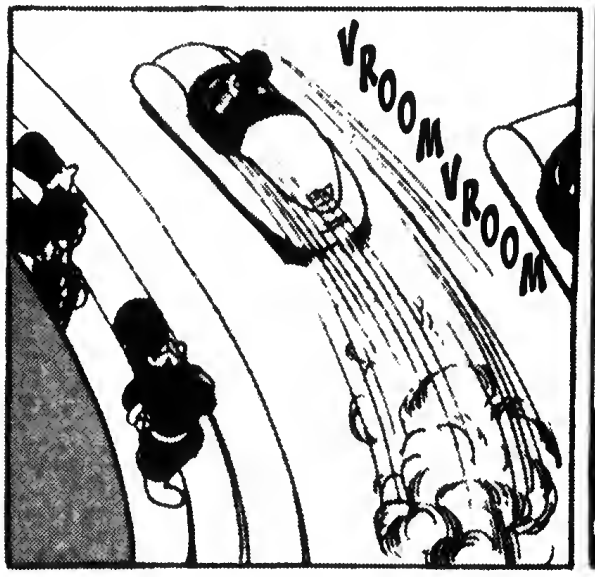
DING
DING
DING
DING
GRR!
RRR!
GRR!
WHOOP-oo!
KERSMASH
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!
AAH! AAH! DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS STAND
I AM INDEED A SPY! AND THE SPIES OF YOUR COUNTRY...
...PUT ME IN A BAD POSITION. SO NOW THAT GOES FOR BOTH OF US.
I-I-I'M BEGGING YOU! PLEASE DO NOT SHOOT ME!
IT'S TOO SOON FOR YOU TO BE ACTING LIKE AN ADULT.
THIS IS WHAT COMES OF DROPPING YOUR GUARD!
EVEN IF I TORE HIM LIMB FROM LIMB, I WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED! THE SON OF A--!
YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE HAVE CAPTURED A SPY! AFTER A LONG HAND-TO-HAND BATTLE, I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO BRING HIM DOWN.
≠HMPH!≠ FULL YOU ARE WITH VALOR!
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I'M READY FOR THE DEATH SENTENCE OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU'VE GOT!
≠HMPH!≠ WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

TAKE HIM TO THE UNDER-GROUND FACTORY.
UNDER-GROUND FACTORY? I WAS SURE I'D GET A DEATH SENTENCE. I WAS EVEN READY FOR IT!
COURAGEOUS LAD! THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY IS A FAR MORE TERRIFYING SENTENCE THAN STAND-ING ON THE GALLOWS! YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH.
BY THE WAY, WHY AREN'T I RECEIVING A PRO-MOTION?
OH, WELL, THAT. NOT ONLY DID YOU DESTROY THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS STAND, BUT YOU WERE BEATEN BY A SPY WHILE DRUNK.
HUH --?!
THAT BEING A CRIME, YOUR RANK OF COLONEL WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE THE RANK OF GATEKEEPER FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
I'VE HAD IT!!
BRING ME MORE VODKA! LIQUOR! LIQUOR!
BOP
MINIS-TER.
MR. REDONOV'S SON IVAN GRACES US WITH HIS PRES-ENCE.
GOOD.
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY. IT IS I, IVAN.
OH! IVAN, IS IT? YOU'VE GROWN SO BIG.

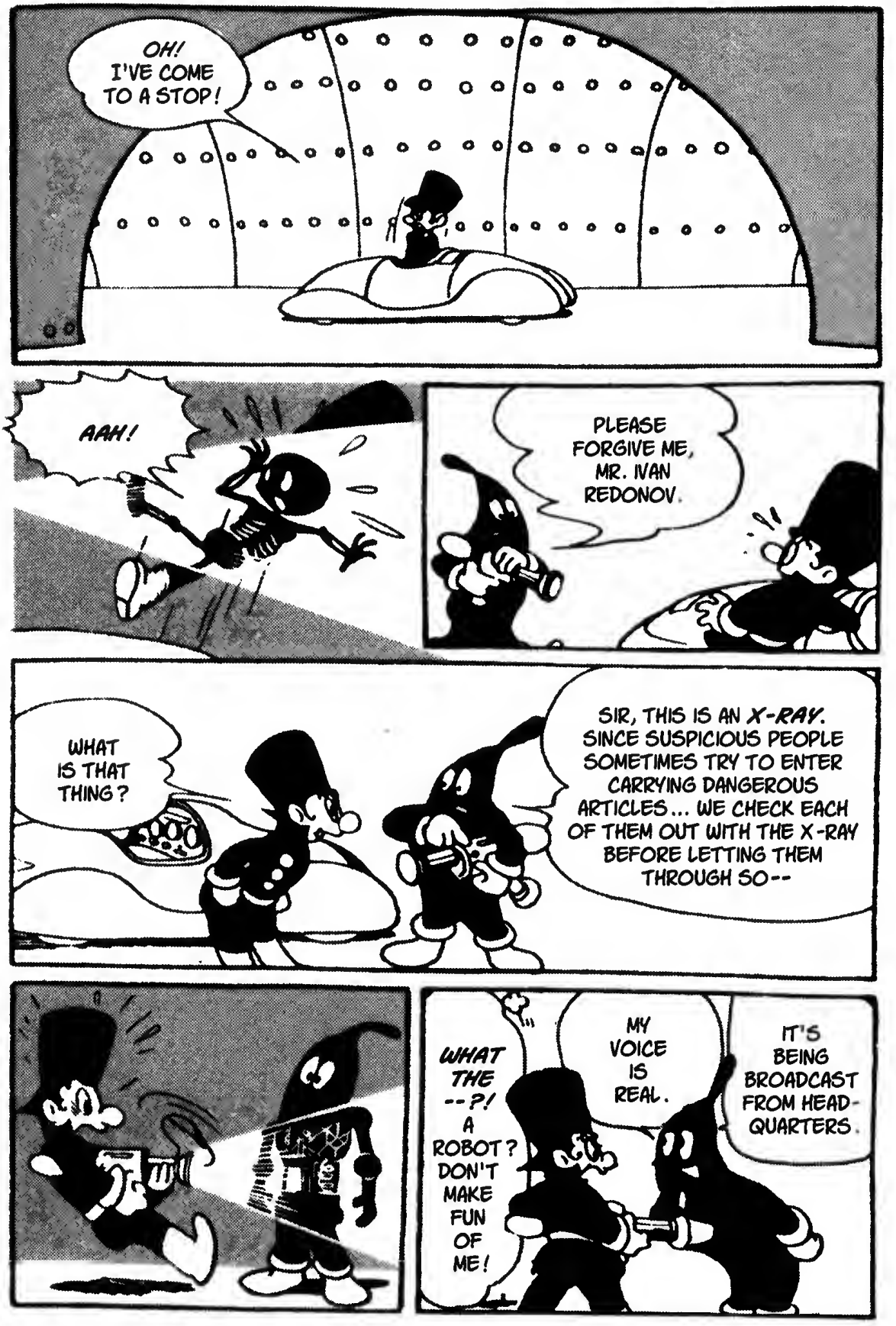

THE TRUTH IS...
... YESTERDAY I RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM MY FATHER TELLING ME TO STOP PLAYING AND GO TO THE UNDER-GROUND FACTORY TO WORK.
HMM. I ALSO RECEIVED WORD FROM YOUR FATHER. HE ASKED ME TO TREAT YOU WELL.

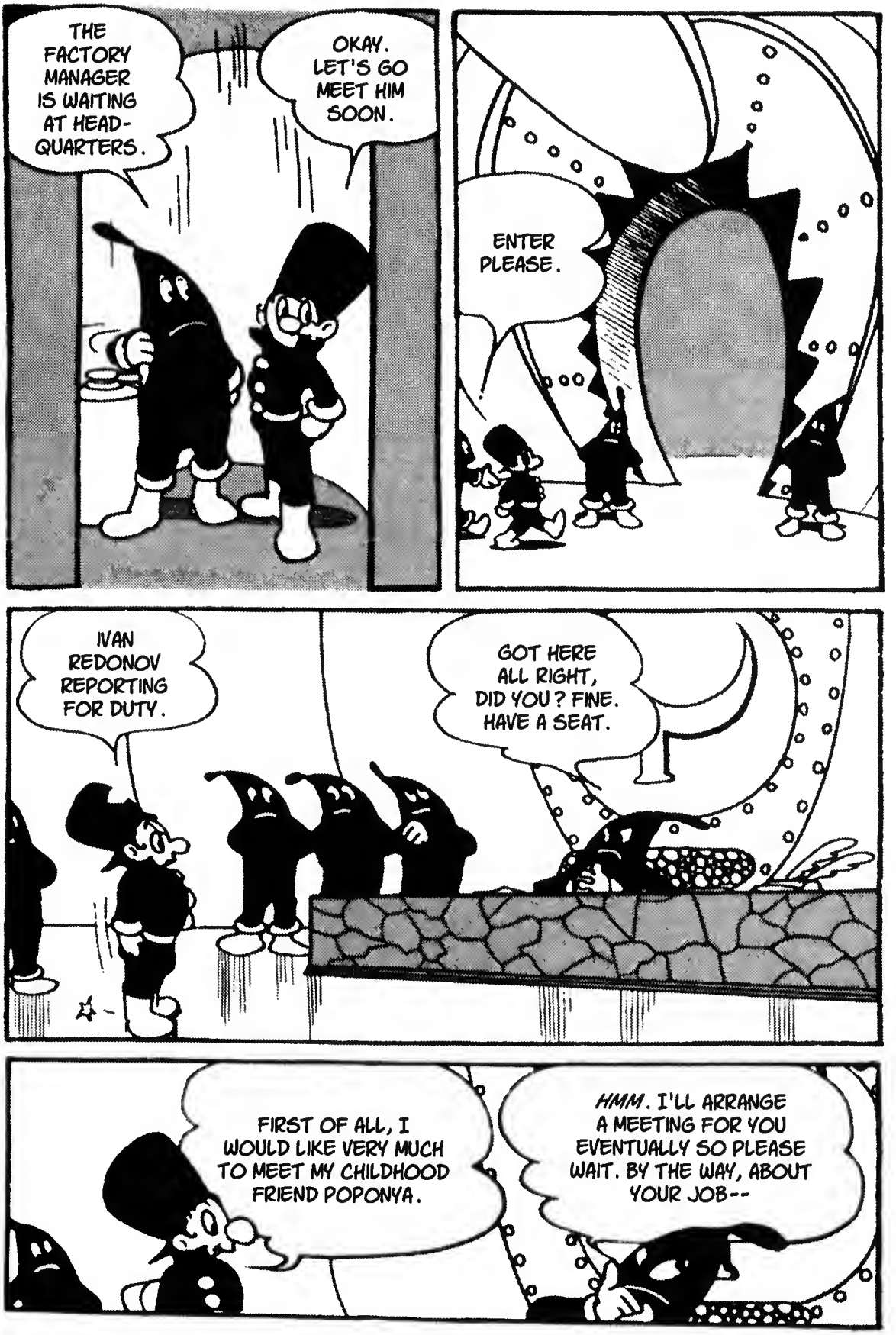

MY DAUGHTER POPONYA IS AT THE FACTORY ALSO. I WILL MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TREAT YOU BADLY.
YES, SIR. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MISS POPONYA.


VROOM VROOM

I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM. ONCE HE GETS TO THAT UNDERGROUND FACTORY, THAT KID'S DONE FOR!

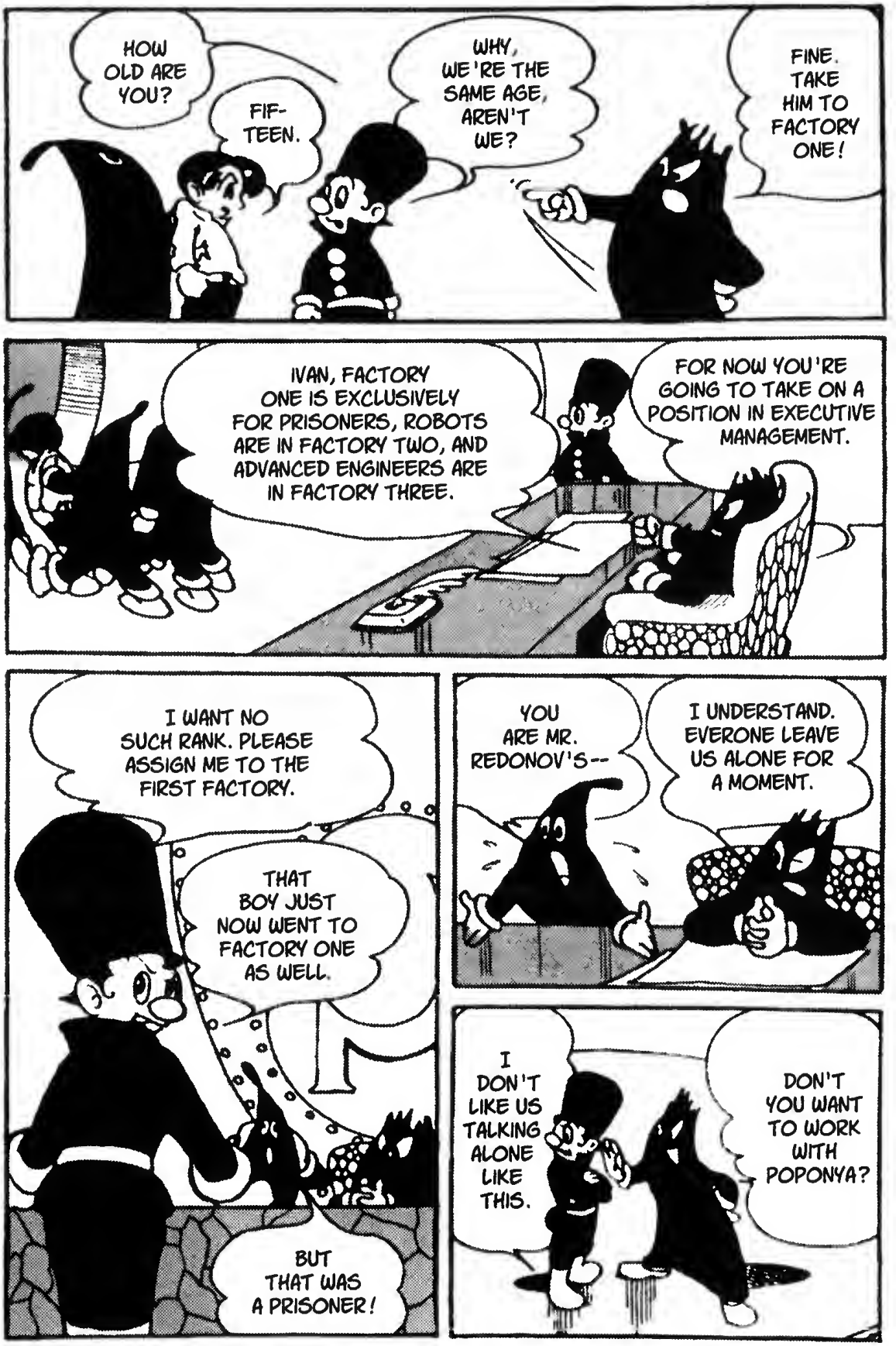
UNDER THE TUNDRA
I KEEP GOING AND GOING, BUT IT'S JUST TUNDRA!
COULD THERE REALLY BE A FACTORY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
VAVOOM
AAH!
WHOOSH

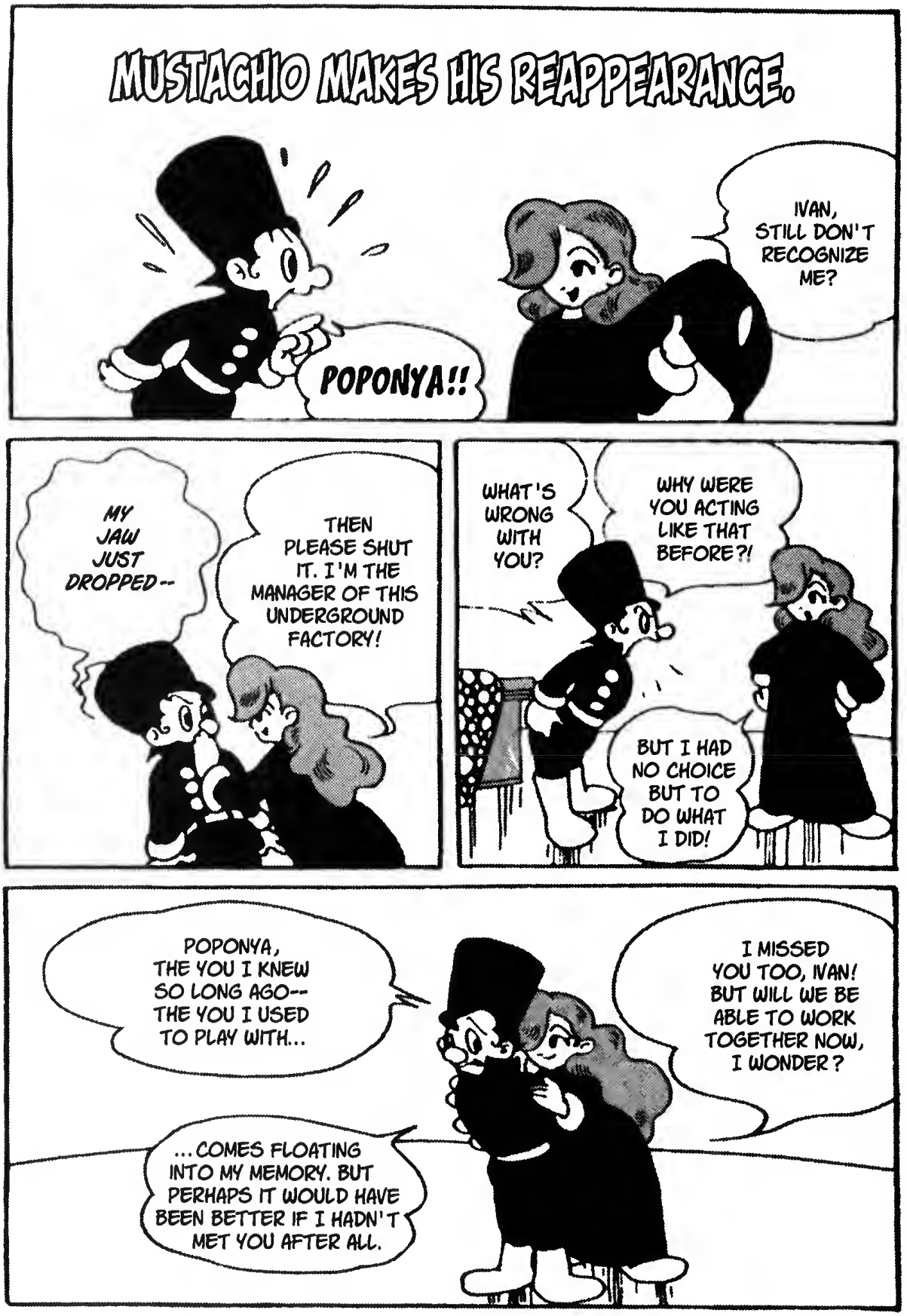

OH! I'VE COME TO A STOP!
AAH!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MR. IVAN REDONOV.
WHAT IS THAT THING?
SIR, THIS IS AN X-RAY. SINCE SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE SOMETIMES TRY TO ENTER CARRYING DANGEROUS ARTICLES... WE CHECK EACH OF THEM OUT WITH THE X-RAY BEFORE LETTING THEM THROUGH SO--
WHAT THE --?! A ROBOT? DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
MY VOICE IS REAL.
IT'S BEING BROADCAST FROM HEAD-QUARTERS.


THE FACTORY MANAGER IS WAITING AT HEAD-QUARTERS.
OKAY. LET'S GO MEET HIM SOON.
ENTER PLEASE.
IVAN REDONOV REPORTING FOR DUTY.
GOT HERE ALL RIGHT, DID YOU? FINE. HAVE A SEAT.
FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO MEET MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND POPONYA.
HMM. I'LL ARRANGE A MEETING FOR YOU EVENTUALLY SO PLEASE WAIT. BY THE WAY, ABOUT YOUR JOB--

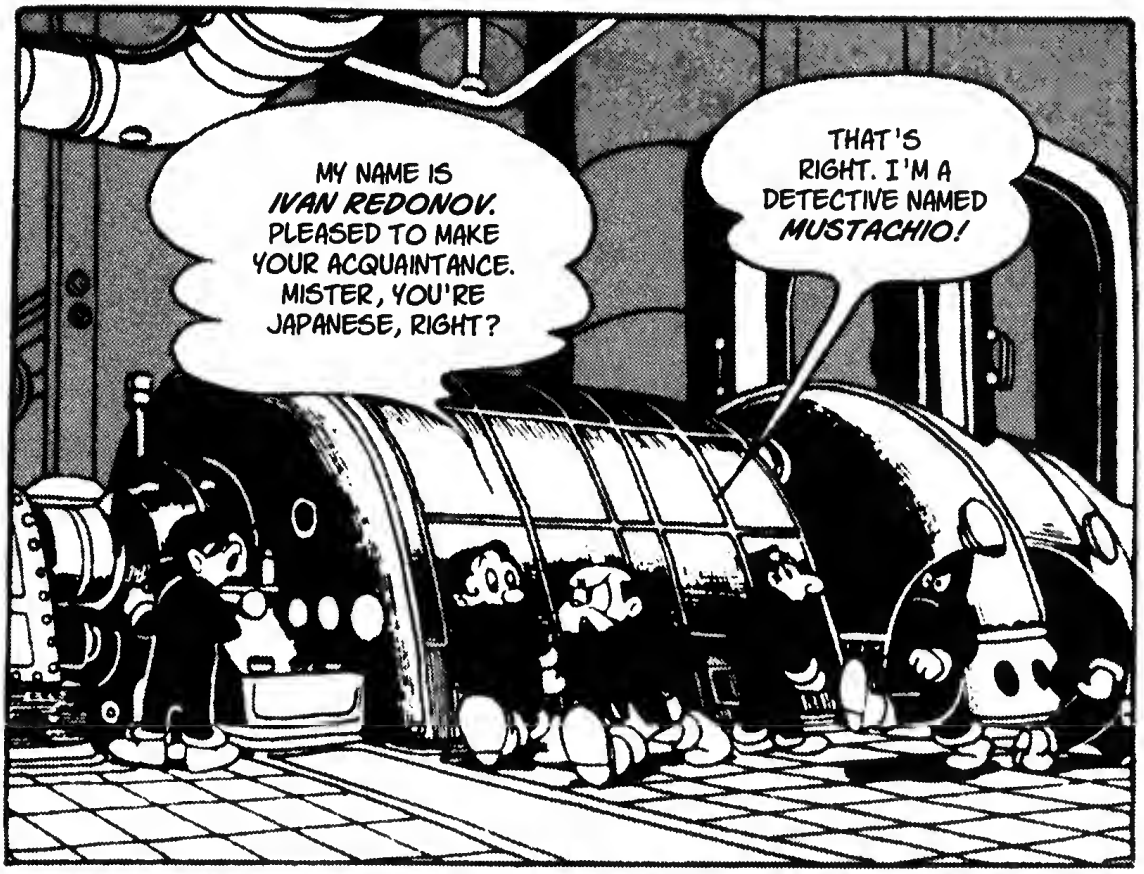
WHAT'S ALL THAT RACKET?!
YOU IDIOT!
WHAT THE --?!
AAH!
BONK
CRASH
ONE OF THE PRISONERS IS GOING CRAZY!
BRING HIM HERE!
HEY, HEY, HEY! BIG CHEESE! YOU THINK PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY WORK IN A FACTORY LIKE THAT?! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK WE ARE?!
WHAT KIND OF ARROGANT FACE ARE YOU HIDING BEHIND THERE? LET'S TAKE OFF THE MASK AND SEE!
AAH! WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
SEIZE THIS BEAST!!

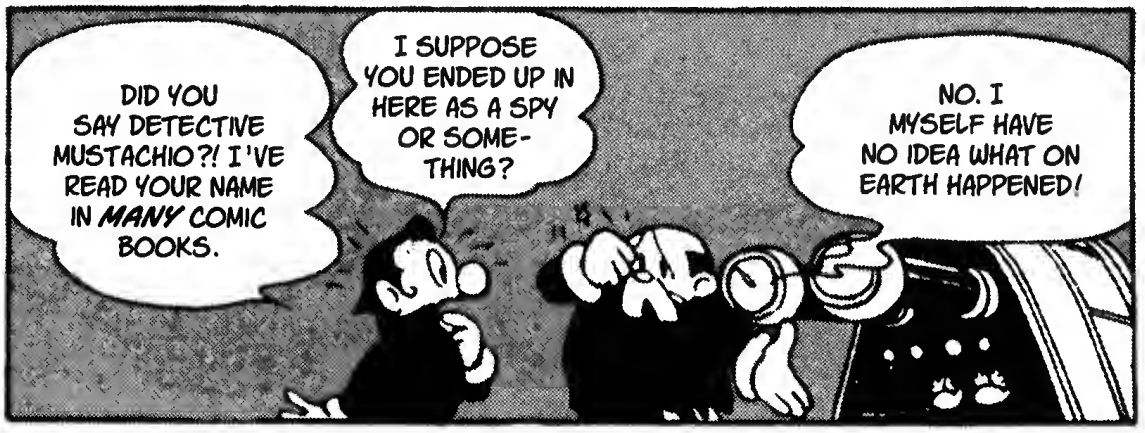
HE'S A FAT ONE!
HEY, YOU! JUST TRY AND EVEN GRUNT!
YOU WON'T GET OFF EASY!
≠YOWCH!≠ WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?
≠GRUNT!≠
MAKE HIM A "CAGED BIRD" UNTIL HE REGRETS THIS!
WHAT'S A "CAGED BIRD"?
IT'S WHEN WE PUT THEM IN A JAIL CELL AND DON'T LET THEM DO A SINGLE THING FOR SEVERAL DAYS! IT'S EXCRUTI-ATING!
WHAT'S THE COMMOTION ABOUT THIS TIME?
WE HAVE ANOTHER PRISONER.
ROCK ...
... A BOY FROM THE NATION OF STAR.


HOW OLD ARE YOU?
FIF-TEEN.
WHY, WE'RE THE SAME AGE, AREN'T WE?
FINE. TAKE HIM TO FACTORY ONE!
IVAN, FACTORY ONE IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR PRISONERS, ROBOTS ARE IN FACTORY TWO, AND ADVANCED ENGINEERS ARE IN FACTORY THREE.
FOR NOW YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON A POSITION IN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT.
I WANT NO SUCH RANK. PLEASE ASSIGN ME TO THE FIRST FACTORY.
THAT BOY JUST NOW WENT TO FACTORY ONE AS WELL.
BUT THAT WAS A PRISONER!
YOU ARE MR. REDONOV'S--
I UNDERSTAND. EVERONE LEAVE US ALONE FOR A MOMENT.
I DON'T LIKE US TALKING ALONE LIKE THIS.
DON'T YOU WANT TO WORK WITH POPONYA?

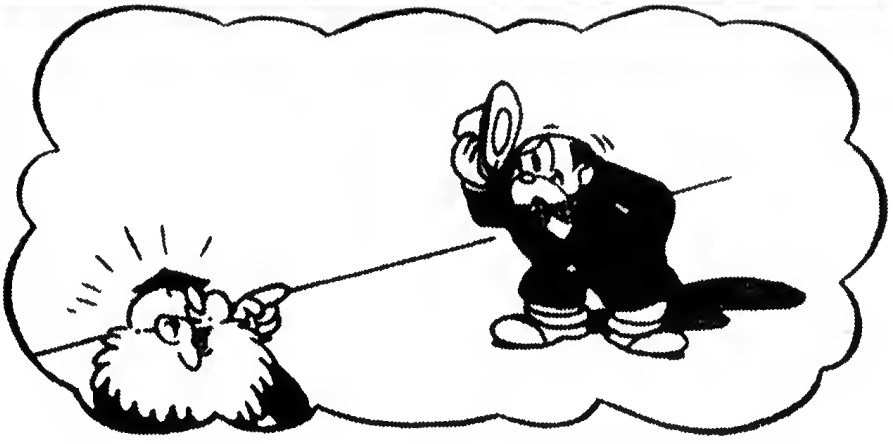

MUSTACHIO MAKES HIS REAPPEARANCE.
POPONYA!!
IVAN, STILL DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?
MY JAW JUST DROPPED--
THEN PLEASE SHUT IT. I'M THE MANAGER OF THIS UNDERGROUND FACTORY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHY WERE YOU ACTING LIKE THAT BEFORE?!
BUT I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DO WHAT I DID!
POPONYA, THE YOU I KNEW SO LONG AGO-- THE YOU I USED TO PLAY WITH...
...COMES FLOATING INTO MY MEMORY. BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T MET YOU AFTER ALL.
I MISSED YOU TOO, IVAN! BUT WILL WE BE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER NOW, I WONDER?

NO! I'M GOING TO FACTORY ONE!
YOU ARE SILLY, AREN'T YOU? BUT ALL RIGHT. AND IN EXCHANGE, I WILL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK.
REALLY? THEN RELEASE THAT "CAGED BIRD"!
WELL, THAT'LL SET A BAD EXAMPLE, BUT FINE!
≠AHEM-HEM!≠
GET IVAN A WORK UNIFORM.
AND THEN LET OUT THAT "CAGED BIRD."
HEYYY! I'M NOT A MONKEY IN A ZOO! WHO'S THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THIS THING?!
HEY! YOU'RE THE KID WHO WAS IN THAT ROOM BEFORE, RIGHT? YOU SON OF A--
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, MISTER!

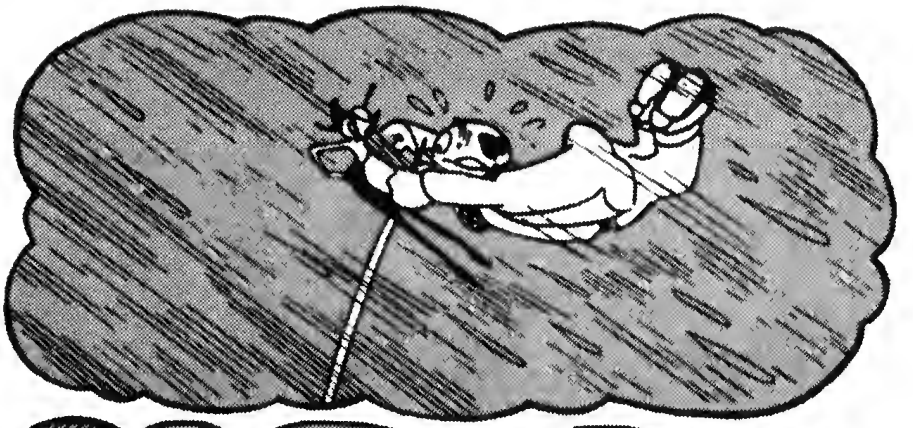

MY NAME IS *IVAN REDONOV.* PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE. MISTER, YOU'RE JAPANESE, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M A DETECTIVE NAMED *MUSTACHIO!*


DID YOU SAY DETECTIVE MUSTACHIO?! I'VE READ YOUR NAME IN *MANY* COMIC BOOKS.
I SUPPOSE YOU ENDED UP IN HERE AS A SPY OR SOMETHING?
NO. I MYSELF HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED!

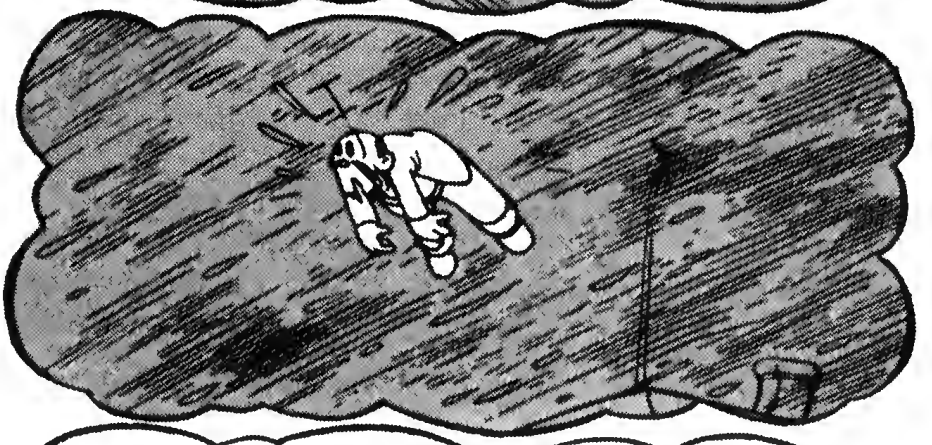
"ONE STORMY NIGHT I WAS AT THE MANSION OF DR. YAMADANO OF JAPAN WHERE I MET WITH A SUSPICIOUS CASE."



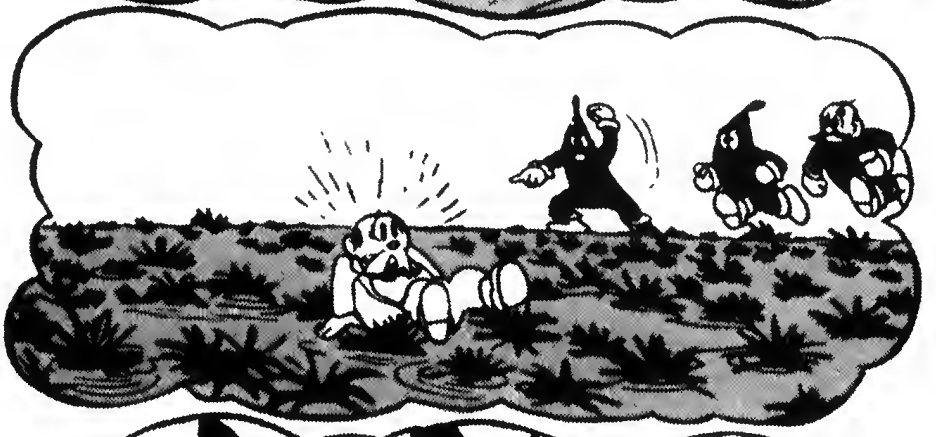
"THEN I WENT UP TO THE ROOF IN PURSUIT OF A MONSTER, BUT I WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE!"



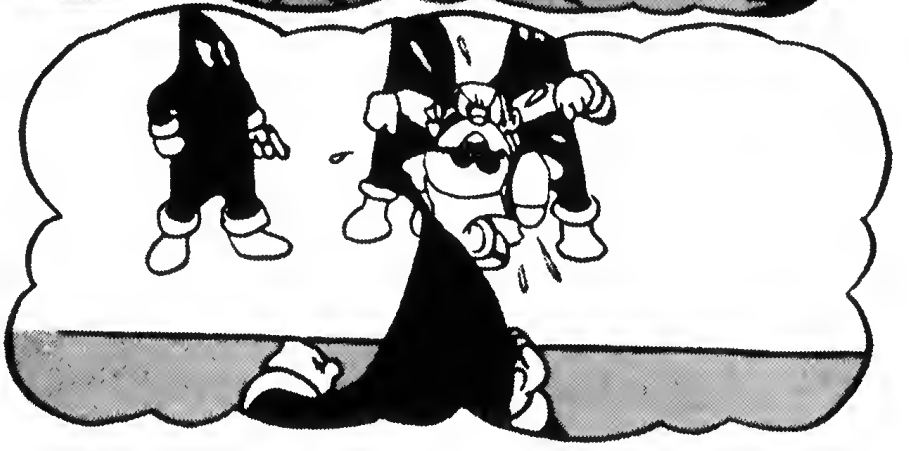
"MY BODY BECOME FEATHER-LIGHT AND FLOATED UP AND AWAY. I LOST CONSCIOUS-NESS."



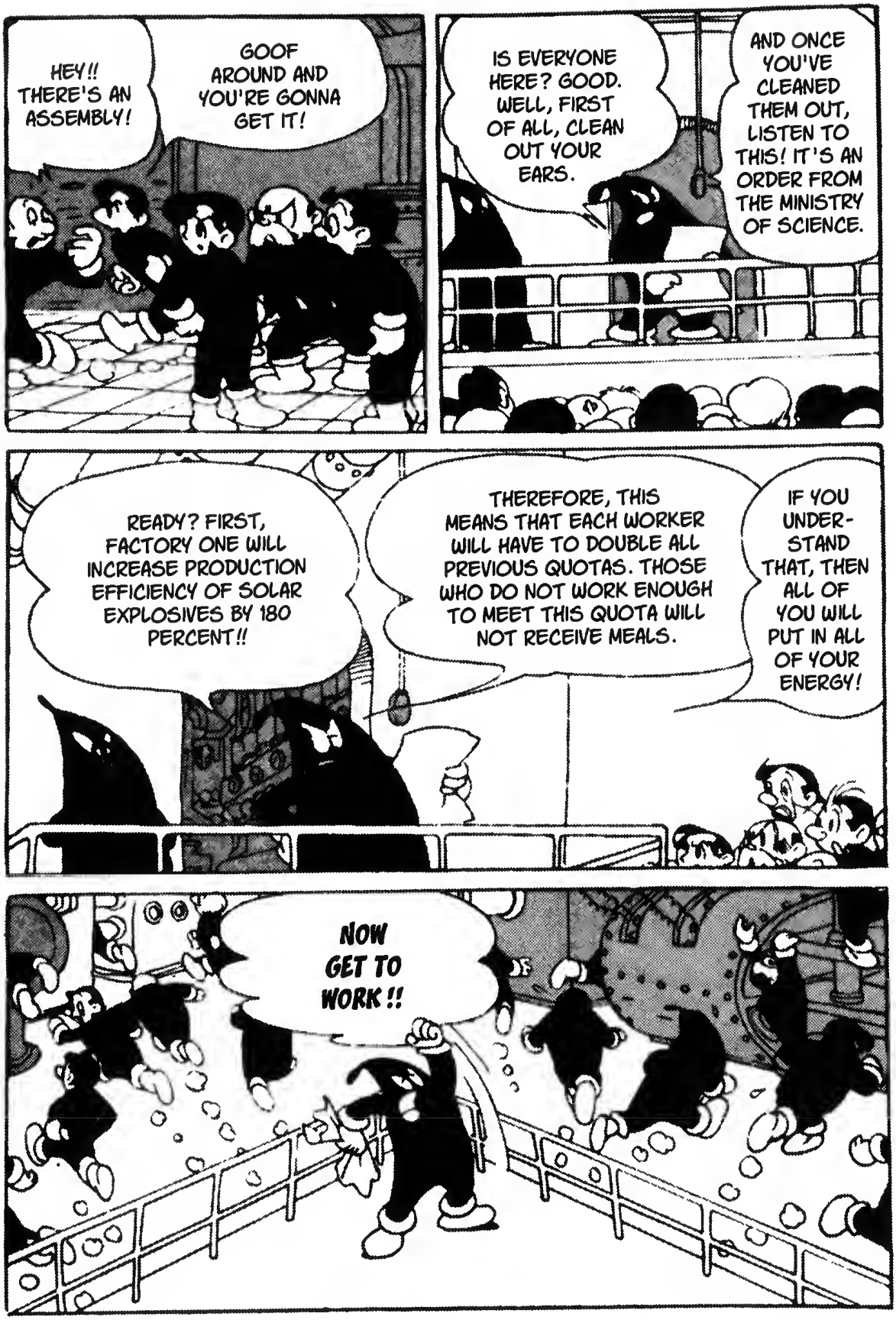
"WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN BIG TROUBLE! I HAD FALLEN ONTO THE TUNDRA OF THE URAN PLAINS HERE!"



"THERE, SUDDENLY MEN WEARING RUBASHKAS APPEARED AND DRAGGED ME OFF TO THIS FACTORY."

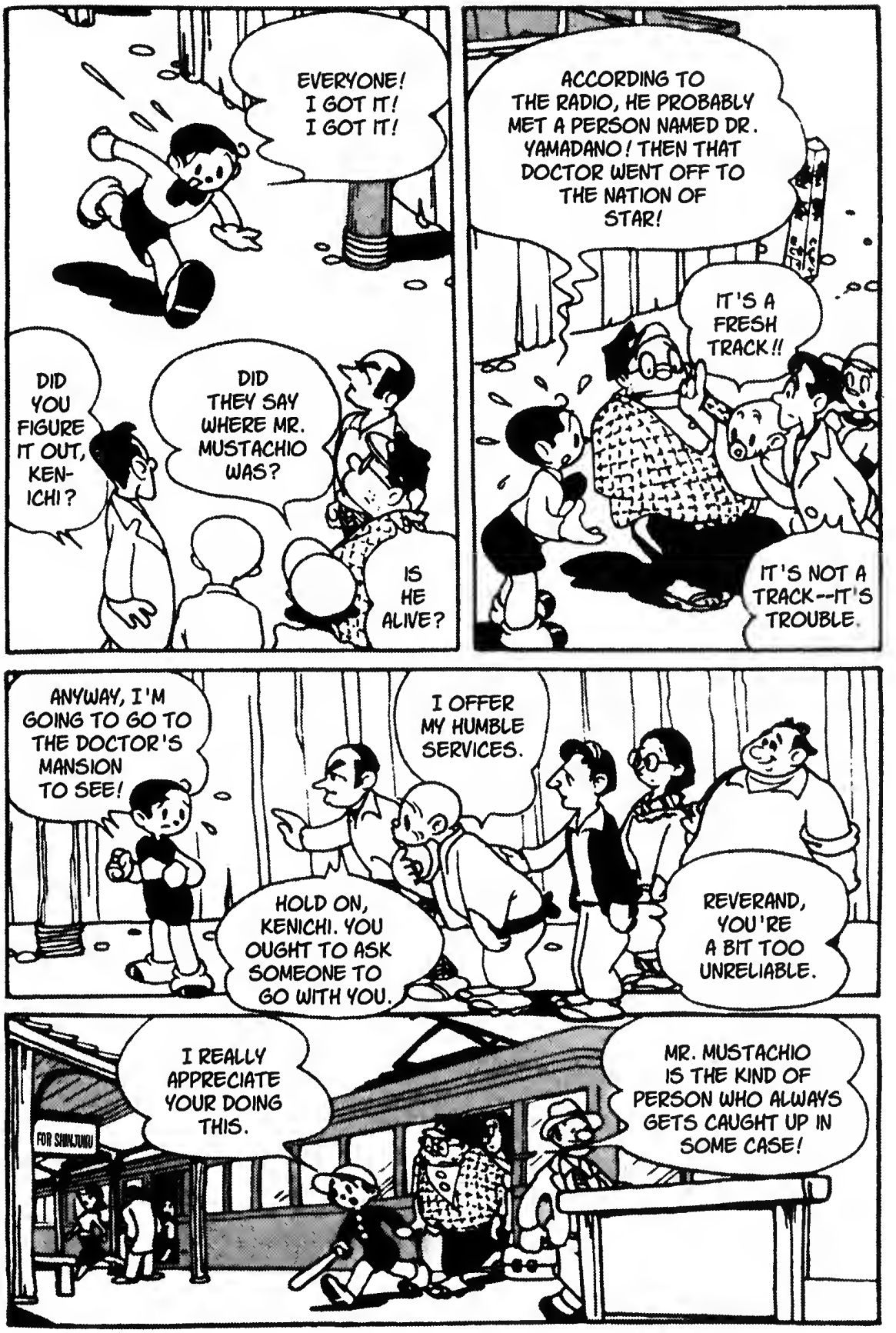


WITHOUT A CHANCE TO EVEN TAKE A BREATH, AND BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON...
...I WAS MADE A PRISONER, AS YOU SEE ME NOW.
DO YOU THINK IT WAS ALL IN A DREAM?
WELL, ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU FLEW ALL THE WAY HERE FROM JAPAN?
PLEASE LET ME INTERRUPT YOUR STORY!!
WHO'RE YOU?
DR. YAMADANO RECENTLY MADE A BROADCAST ABOUT THAT VERY THING!
OH! IT'S ROCK!
THE DOCTOR WAS SAYING THAT THERE WAS A THREAT OF BEINGS GREATER THAN HUMANS APPEARING ON THE EARTH.
BEINGS GREATER...
...THAN HUMANS?
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHAT YOU SAW--
YOU'RE RIGHT! I ACTUALLY SAW IT!
THIS IS MOST SERIOUS!
FACTORY WORKERS, GATHER AT ONCE!!


HEY!! THERE'S AN ASSEMBLY!
GOOF AROUND AND YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!
IS EVERYONE HERE? GOOD. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, CLEAN OUT YOUR EARS.
AND ONCE YOU'VE CLEANED THEM OUT, LISTEN TO THIS! IT'S AN ORDER FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.
READY? FIRST, FACTORY ONE WILL INCREASE PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY OF SOLAR EXPLOSIVES BY 180 PERCENT!!
THEREFORE, THIS MEANS THAT EACH WORKER WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE ALL PREVIOUS QUOTAS. THOSE WHO DO NOT WORK ENOUGH TO MEET THIS QUOTA WILL NOT RECEIVE MEALS.
IF YOU UNDER-STAND THAT, THEN ALL OF YOU WILL PUT IN ALL OF YOUR ENERGY!
NOW GET TO WORK!!

THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WITH THE HORN

DA-DUM
BONG
NANMAIDABU
NANMAIDABU
NANMAIDABU...
NANMAIDABU
NANMAIDA...
NANMAIDA...
WELL, STUDY TIME!
EVERY-ONE, PLEASE BE QUIET!
THE RADIO'S TALKING ABOUT THE MISSING PER-SON REPORT I MADE ON MY UNCLE.
...WEARING A GREY SUIT JACKET AND NECKTIE, A PERSON COMMONLY KNOWN AS MUSTACHIO. IF FOUND, PERSONS...
THIS MAY GIVE US WORD ABOUT MR. MUSTACHIO!
SHUNSUKE BAN DETECTIVE OFFICE
IT'S MY UNCLE!
THE NEXT NEWS IS ABOUT A MISSING PERSON. SEVERAL DAYS AGO, MR. BAN SHUNSUKE AND DR. YAMADANO...

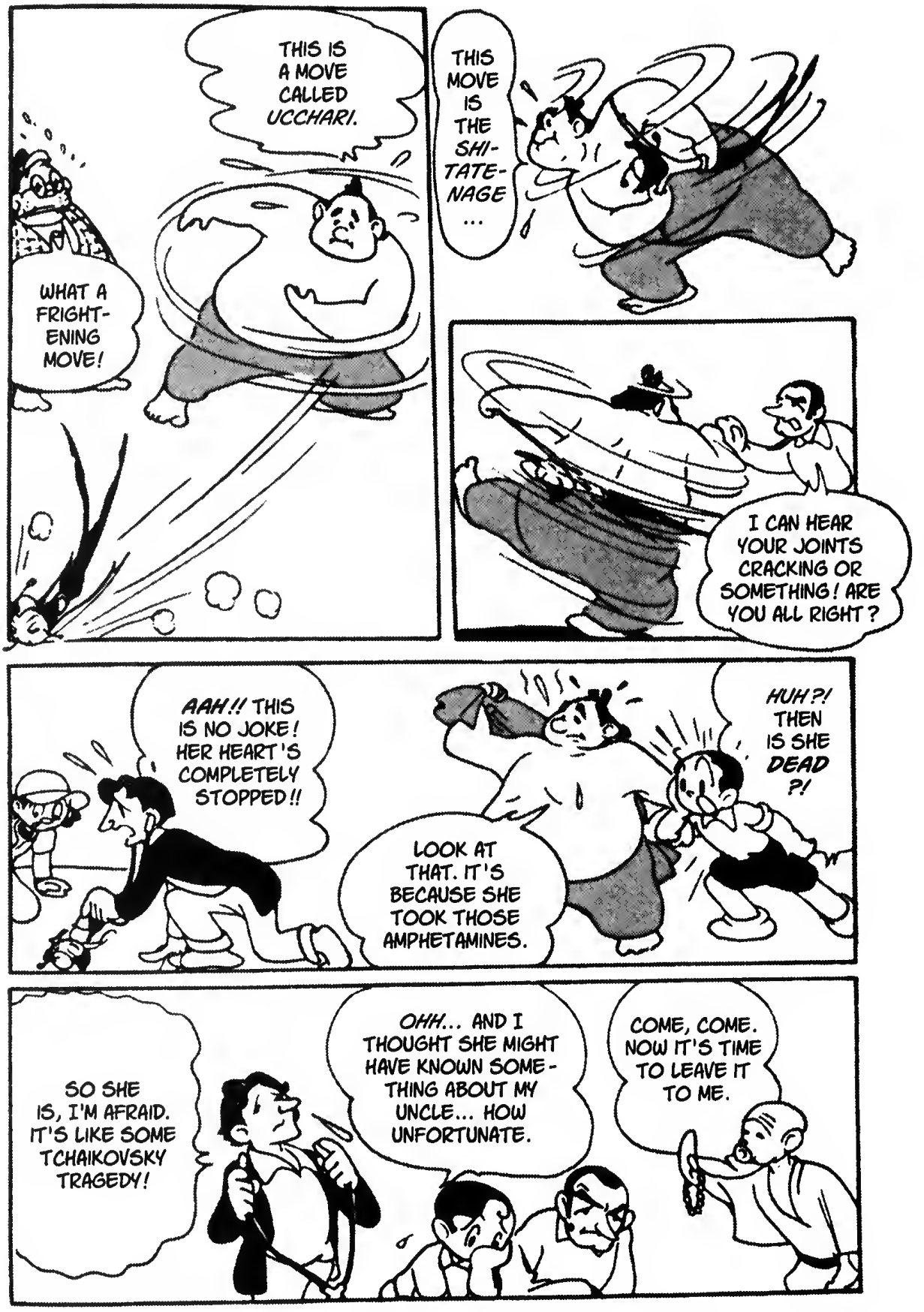

EVERYONE! I GOT IT! I GOT IT!
DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT, KEN-ICHI?
DID THEY SAY WHERE MR. MUSTACHIO WAS?
IS HE ALIVE?
ACCORDING TO THE RADIO, HE PROBABLY MET A PERSON NAMED DR. YAMADANO! THEN THAT DOCTOR WENT OFF TO THE NATION OF STAR!
IT'S A FRESH TRACK!!
IT'S NOT A TRACK--IT'S TROUBLE.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO GO TO THE DOCTOR'S MANSION TO SEE!
I OFFER MY HUMBLE SERVICES.
HOLD ON, KENICHI. YOU OUGHT TO ASK SOMEONE TO GO WITH YOU.
REVERAND, YOU'RE A BIT TOO UNRELIABLE.
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR DOING THIS.
FOR SHINJUKU
MR. MUSTACHIO IS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO ALWAYS GETS CAUGHT UP IN SOME CASE!

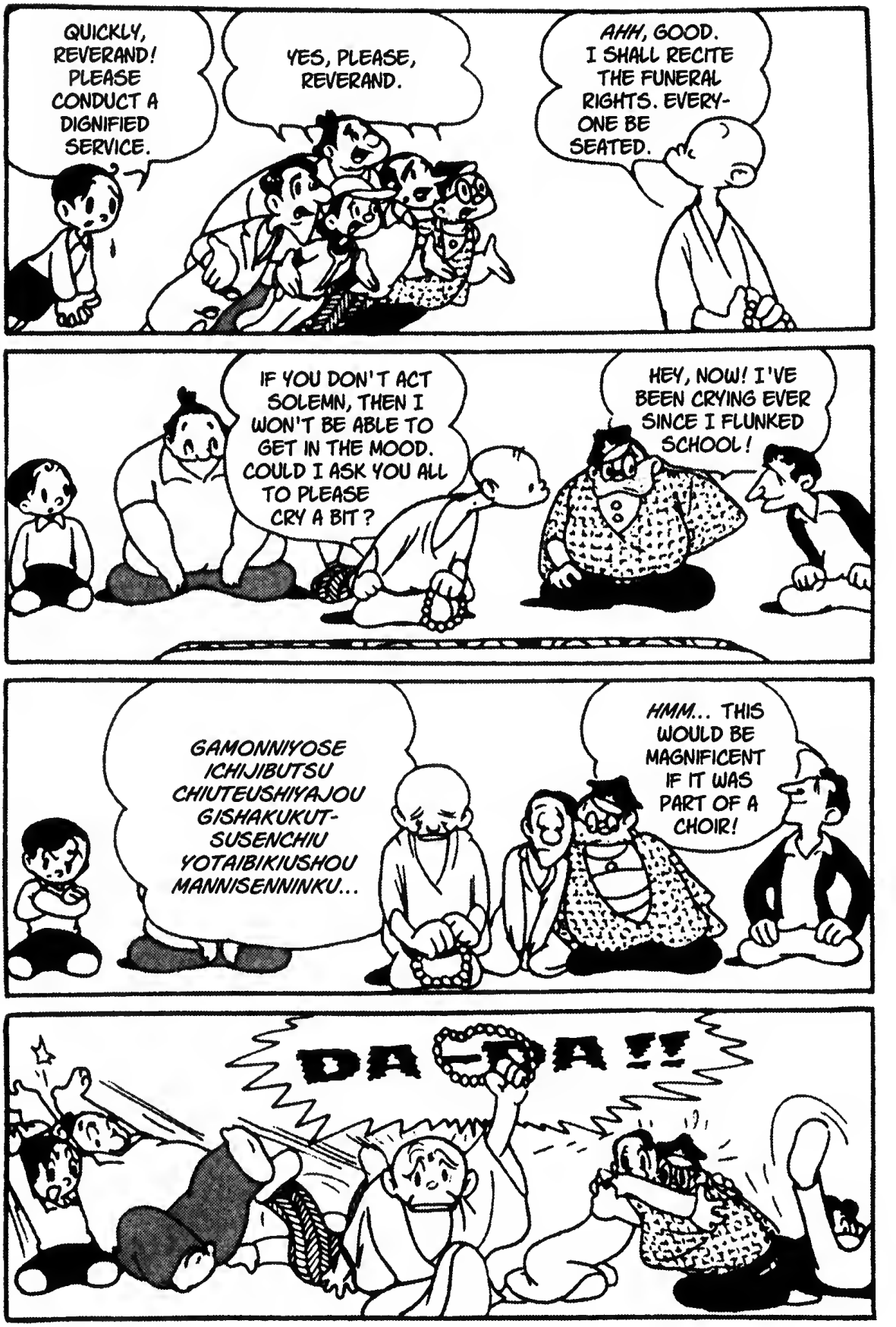
THAT'S THE MANSION, ISN'T IT? IT LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE WITH SOME SECRETS!
IT LOOKS LIKE *ARSENE LUPIN** OR SOMEONE LIVES HERE.
LET'S GO LOOK AROUND BACK.
*EARLY 20TH CENTURY LITERARY CHARACTER: "THE GENTLEMAN BURGLAR"
AAH!!
ROKKAKU, IT'S MY UNCLE'S HAT!!
HUH?
OHHH...

WHAT'S WRONG? DID SOMEBODY ATTACK YOU?
IT WAS NO ONE! I WAS SURPRISED BY YOUR "AHH!" =OOF!=
ROKKAKU, PLEASE LOOK. SEE IF THE DOCTOR HASN'T FALLEN OVER SOMEWHERE IN THE TALL GRASS...
WHOA! DON'T PUSH ME LIKE THAT!
THERE HE IS!!
THAT'S NOT THE DOCTOR!
HMMM... THIS ISN'T THE DOCTOR, AND IT'S NOT HUMAN EITHER!

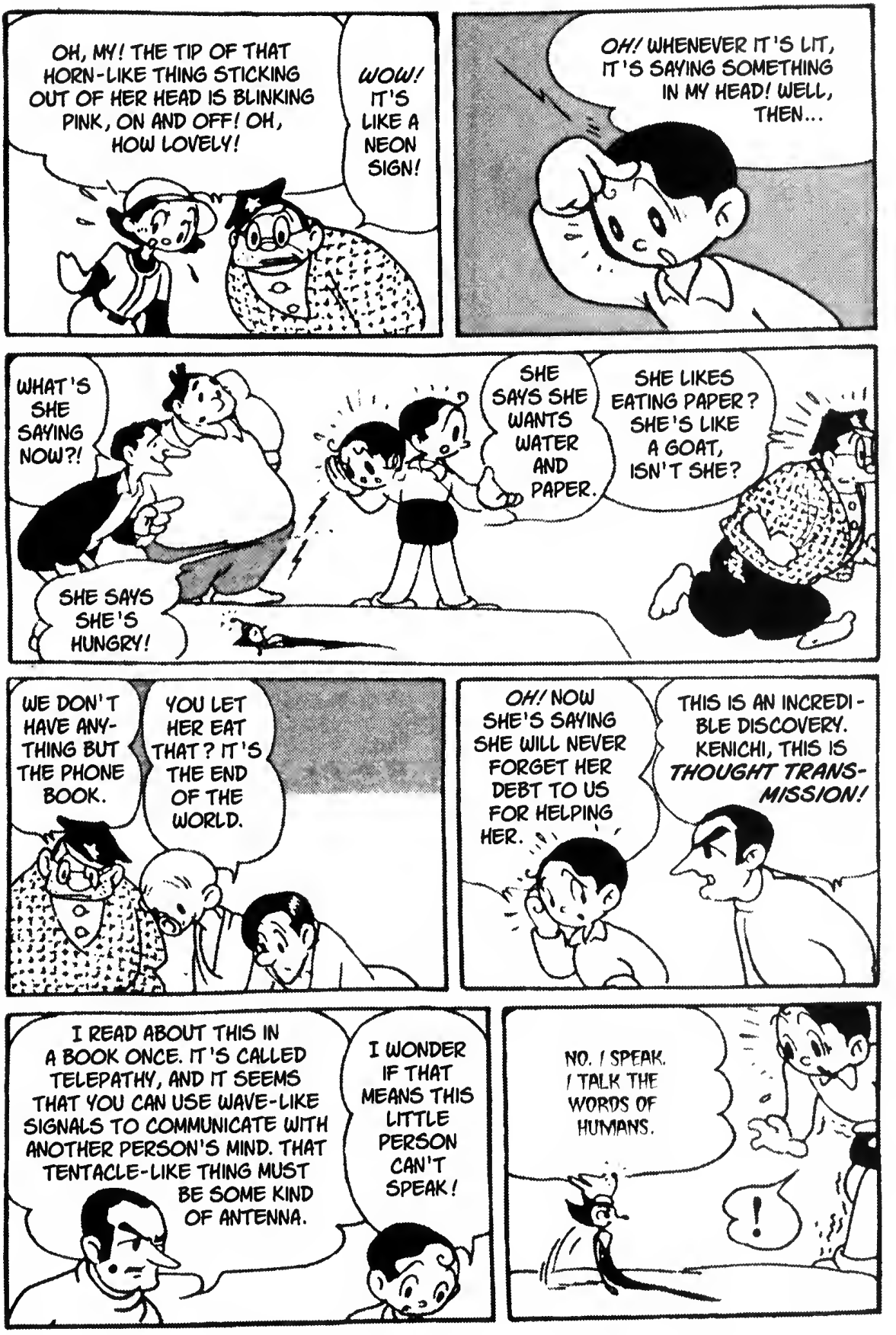
THE TALE OF EATING A PHONE BOOK FOR BREAKFAST.

IS SHE BACK TO LIFE?
THE PIANO TEACHER'S LOOKING AT HER RIGHT NOW, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT THE PROBLEM.
IT LOOKS GRIM, DOESN'T IT, MR. WADA?
HE'S DOIN' A MEDICAL EXAM OF HER NAVEL!
WHEN SHE BREATHES HER LAST, ALLOW ME TO PERFORM THE LAST RIGHTS. NAMUAMI-DABUTSU.
MY UNCLE WASN'T THERE, BUT THERE WAS THIS WEIRD THING FALLEN ON THE GROUND.
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL. IN FACT IT HAS A STOMACH AND A HEART. THE HEART NOW BEATS A "D" NOTE IN E SHARP MAJOR AS IT WAS BEFORE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE ASKING YOU! IT'S WHETHER SHE'S ALIVE OR DEAD!
HEY! YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST MAKE SOMEONE TAKE TEN DOZEN AMPHETA-MINES LIKE THAT?!
IF A LITTLE WORKS, THEN A LOT'LL WORK BETTER!
WHAT'S THAT? NORMALLY IF SHE WERE DEAD, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP HER, RIGHT?
OH, I SEE! EXCELLENT WORK AS ALWAYS FROM MR. WADA!
NOW IT'S MY TURN! I'LL TRY AND REVIVE HER WITH MY THUNDER ARM!
THUNDER THIGHS I KNOW, BUT THIS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HEARD OF A THUNDER ARM!


THIS IS A MOVE CALLED UCCHARI.
WHAT A FRIGHT-ENING MOVE!
THIS MOVE IS THE SHI-TATE-NAGE ...
I CAN HEAR YOUR JOINTS CRACKING OR SOMETHING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AAH!! THIS IS NO JOKE! HER HEART'S COMPLETELY STOPPED!!
LOOK AT THAT. IT'S BECAUSE SHE TOOK THOSE AMPHETAMINES.
HUH?! THEN IS SHE DEAD?!
SO SHE IS, I'M AFRAID. IT'S LIKE SOME TCHAIKOVSKY TRAGEDY!
OHH... AND I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE KNOWN SOME-THING ABOUT MY UNCLE... HOW UNFORTUNATE.
COME, COME. NOW IT'S TIME TO LEAVE IT TO ME.


QUICKLY, REVERAND! PLEASE CONDUCT A DIGNIFIED SERVICE.
YES, PLEASE, REVERAND.
AHH, GOOD. I SHALL RECITE THE FUNERAL RIGHTS. EVERY-ONE BE SEATED.
IF YOU DON'T ACT SOLEMN, THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IN THE MOOD. COULD I ASK YOU ALL TO PLEASE CRY A BIT?
HEY, NOW! I'VE BEEN CRYING EVER SINCE I FLUNKED SCHOOL!
GAMONNIYOSE ICHIJIBUTSU CHIUTEUSHIYAJOU GISHAKUKUT-SUSENCHIU YOTAIBIKIUSHOU MANNISENNINKU...
HMM... THIS WOULD BE MAGNIFICENT IF IT WAS PART OF A CHOIR!
DA DA!!

FUMOOOON...
HUH?! DID SHE COME BACK TO LIFE??
NICE WORK! SHE MUST'VE HEARD YOUR MAGIC WORDS! DO MORE!
DON'T BE SO FOOLISH! I WAS PERFORMING FUNERAL RIGHTS FOR A DEAD PERSON!
IS SHE SAVED? OH, GOOD, GOOD! NANMAIDA!
KENICHI! GOOD NEWS! WE HAVE WORD OF YOUR UNCLE!
BUT I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE ABLE TO SPEAK.
THAT COMES NEXT. BOY, YOU'RE CONFUSED!
DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?
DIDN'T SAY A WORD!
THAT'S ODD. I FELT LIKE I HEARD SOMETHING IN MY EARS... OH! THERE IT IS AGAIN!
I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
WHAT'S WRONG?
SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO SPEAK TO ME! IT'S NOT THAT I CAN HEAR THE VOICE IN MY EARS, IT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD. IT'S SO WEIRD. WEIRD...


OH, MY! THE TIP OF THAT HORN-LIKE THING STICKING OUT OF HER HEAD IS BLINKING PINK, ON AND OFF! OH, HOW LOVELY!
WOW! IT'S LIKE A NEON SIGN!
OH! WHENEVER IT'S LIT, IT'S SAYING SOMETHING IN MY HEAD! WELL, THEN...
WHAT'S SHE SAYING NOW?!
SHE SAYS SHE'S HUNGRY!
SHE SAYS SHE WANTS WATER AND PAPER.
SHE LIKES EATING PAPER? SHE'S LIKE A GOAT, ISN'T SHE?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY-THING BUT THE PHONE BOOK.
YOU LET HER EAT THAT? IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.
OH! NOW SHE'S SAYING SHE WILL NEVER FORGET HER DEBT TO US FOR HELPING HER.
THIS IS AN INCREDI-BLE DISCOVERY. KENICHI, THIS IS THOUGHT TRANS-MISSION!
I READ ABOUT THIS IN A BOOK ONCE. IT'S CALLED TELEPATHY, AND IT SEEMS THAT YOU CAN USE WAVE-LIKE SIGNALS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND. THAT TENTACLE-LIKE THING MUST BE SOME KIND OF ANTENNA.
I WONDER IF THAT MEANS THIS LITTLE PERSON CAN'T SPEAK!
NO. I SPEAK. I TALK THE WORDS OF HUMANS.
!

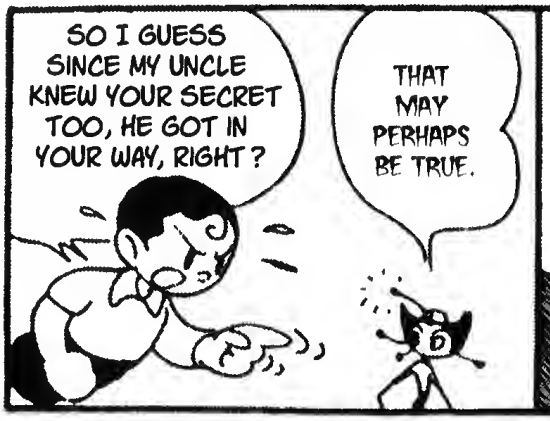
KANNON IN ASAKUSA*

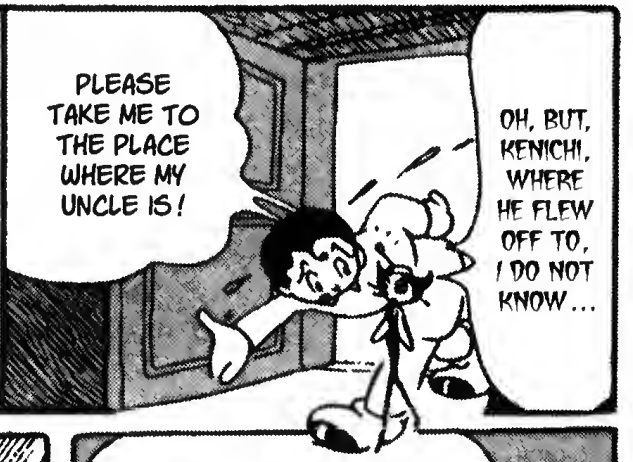
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! YOU CANNOT LET OUR TOWN FALL INTO THE HANDS OF SUCH A WOMAN!
W-WAIT! I SAID WAIT ALREADY! ≠OUCH!≠ ≠OW!≠ ≠OW!≠ THIS GUY HIT ME!
HOLD IT! HEY, ROKKAKU! IS THAT ANY WAY TO STOP A FIGHT?!
DISGRACEFUL! RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET! BARBER SHOP MASTER, YOU'RE TO BLAME TOO! WHAT IS THIS? WHY ARE YOU WALKING AROUND CARRYING THAT BANNER?
THE PROBLEM IS THAT WOMAN!
WHAT'D YOU SAY? WHAT'D THAT WOMAN DO?
CALL HER ROKOKO. HER NAME'S ROKOKO.
WHY DO YOU TREAT THAT WOMAN OR WHATEVER LIKE A GOD?
NOW, I SEE. THIS IS ALL ABOUT ROKOKO, ISN'T IT?
AS IF ANY GOD WOULD BE THAT SMALL!
GO LOOK AT THE STATUE OF KANNON IN ASAKUSA!
OKAY, NOW HOLD IT! I BELIEVE THAT ROKOKO'S GOD-LIKE QUALITIES CAN BE EXPLAINED SCIENTIFICALLY.
INDEED SO, MR. UMINO. MOST SCIENCE AND RELIGION SHOULD BE IN AGREEMENT. THE THREE EXISTENCES OF LIFE --
REVERAND, THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR US TO BE LISTENING TO YOUR PREACHING.

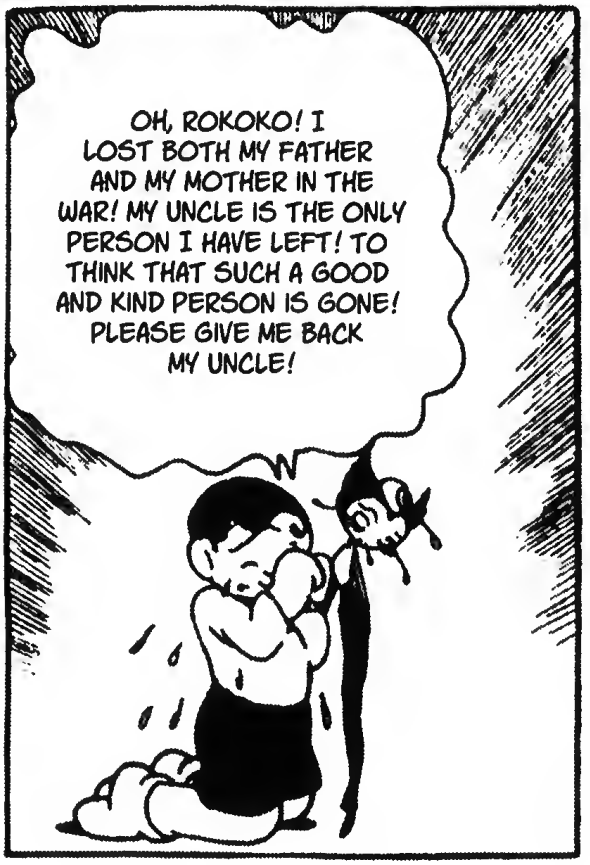
*ACCORDING TO LEGEND, TWO FISHERMEN IN THE 7TH CENTURY CAUGHT A SMALL STATUE OF KANNON, THE BUDDHIST GODDESS OF MERCY, IN THEIR NETS. A TEMPLE DEVOTED TO KANNON WAS BUILT ON THE SITE, WHAT IS NOW ASAKUSA, TOKYO. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ORIGINAL STATUE OF KANNON FOUND BY THE FISHERMEN IS BURIED BENEATH THE GOLD-PLATED SHRINE, WHICH IS BEHIND THE MAIN ALTAR IN THE MAIN HALL.

EVERYONE IS MAKING A BIG FUSS OVER ME.
I HAVE TO GO. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.
YES, THAT'S FINE, BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU.
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO RECOGNIZE THIS PERSON, WOULD YOU?
!
YOU SAY YOU KNOW HIM?! THAT'S MY UNCLE. WHERE IS HE NOW? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM!
THIS HUMAN I KNOW. I ENCOUNTERED HIM AT THE HOME OF DOCTOR YAMADANO. PERHAPS IT WAS THIS MUSTACHIO.
HE HAS ALREADY GONE TO A PLACE FAR WAY, ALL THE WAY NORTH. I MADE HIM FLY THERE.
YOU MADE HIM FLY THERE?! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

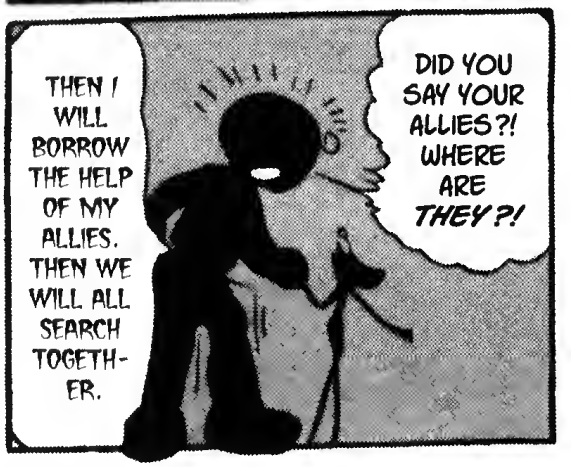
I WAS BORN ON A SOUTHERN ISLAND. TO THAT ISLAND DOCTOR YAMADANO CAME. HE OBTAINED OUR SECRET AND RETURNED. I CAME ALONG WITH HIM...
I DO NOT FORGIVE HUMANS WHO KNOW MY SECRET, BUT YOU ARE DIFFERENT. I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU.


SO I GUESS SINCE MY UNCLE KNEW YOUR SECRET TOO, HE GOT IN YOUR WAY, RIGHT?
THAT MAY PERHAPS BE TRUE.


PLEASE TAKE ME TO THE PLACE WHERE MY UNCLE IS!
OH, BUT, KENICHI, WHERE HE FLEW OFF TO, I DO NOT KNOW...


OH, ROKOKO! I LOST BOTH MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER IN THE WAR! MY UNCLE IS THE ONLY PERSON I HAVE LEFT! TO THINK THAT SUCH A GOOD AND KIND PERSON IS GONE! PLEASE GIVE ME BACK MY UNCLE!

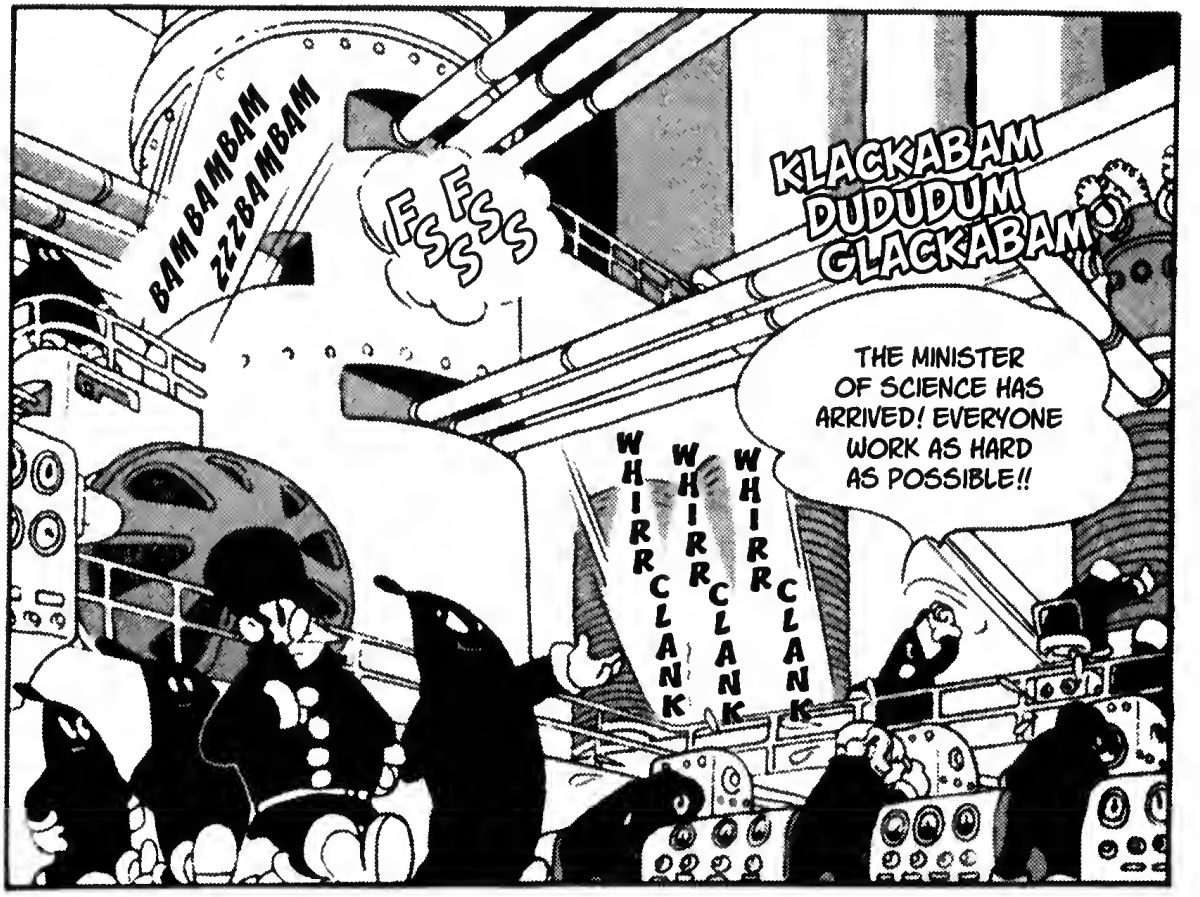
KENICHI, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO STAND IT EVEN IF YOU END UP IN SOME FAR AWAY AND COLD PLACE?
YES, I CAN TAKE IT!


THEN I WILL BORROW THE HELP OF MY ALLIES. THEN WE WILL ALL SEARCH TOGETHER.
DID YOU SAY YOUR ALLIES?! WHERE ARE THEY?!

THERE, UNDER THE NORTH STAR.
WELL, LET US DEPART. YOU MAY FEEL DIZZY, SO CLOSE YOUR EYES.
AAH! THE GROUND HAS DISAPPEARED! THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
WE ARE NOW OUTSIDE THE FIELD OF GRAVITY.
WHOA! WE'RE SPINNING IN THE SKY!
WHAT IS THIS?! OH, NO!
NOW THEN, WE MUST HURRY. CLOSE YOUR EYES--
OH! THE GROUND IS UP OVER MY HEAD! OHH, NOW I SEE... WE'RE UPSIDE-DOWN, AREN'T WE?! HOW STRANGE!

THE UNDERGROUND FACTORY OF DEATH

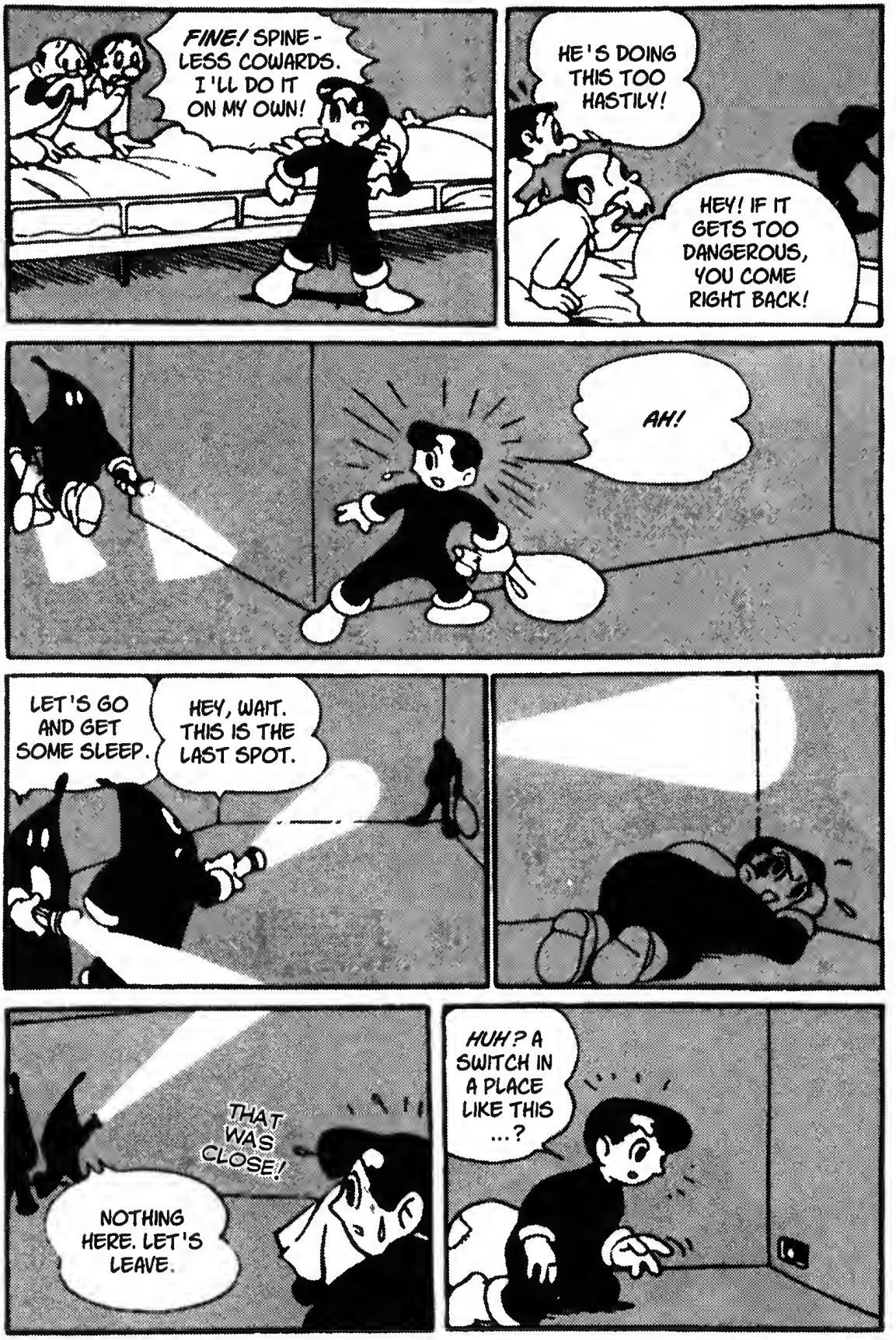
180 PER CENT



ROCK! YOUR FACE IS COMPLETELY GREEN!
UHH... OLD MAN, IT HURTS SO BAD, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO DO THIS FOR ME...
FORGET ABOUT THAT! RIGHT NOW WE CAN'T GET SEEN, ALL RIGHT?
≠GRRR!≠
HEY, YOU! QUIT GOOFING OFF!
WHAT?! LOOK AT THIS BOY'S FACE!! CAN'T YOU SEE HIS CONDITION?
MINISTER! PLEASE WAIT. PLEASE GIVE US A BREAK!!
FINE! YOU AND THE KID GET NO RATIONS TONIGHT. REMEMBER THAT!

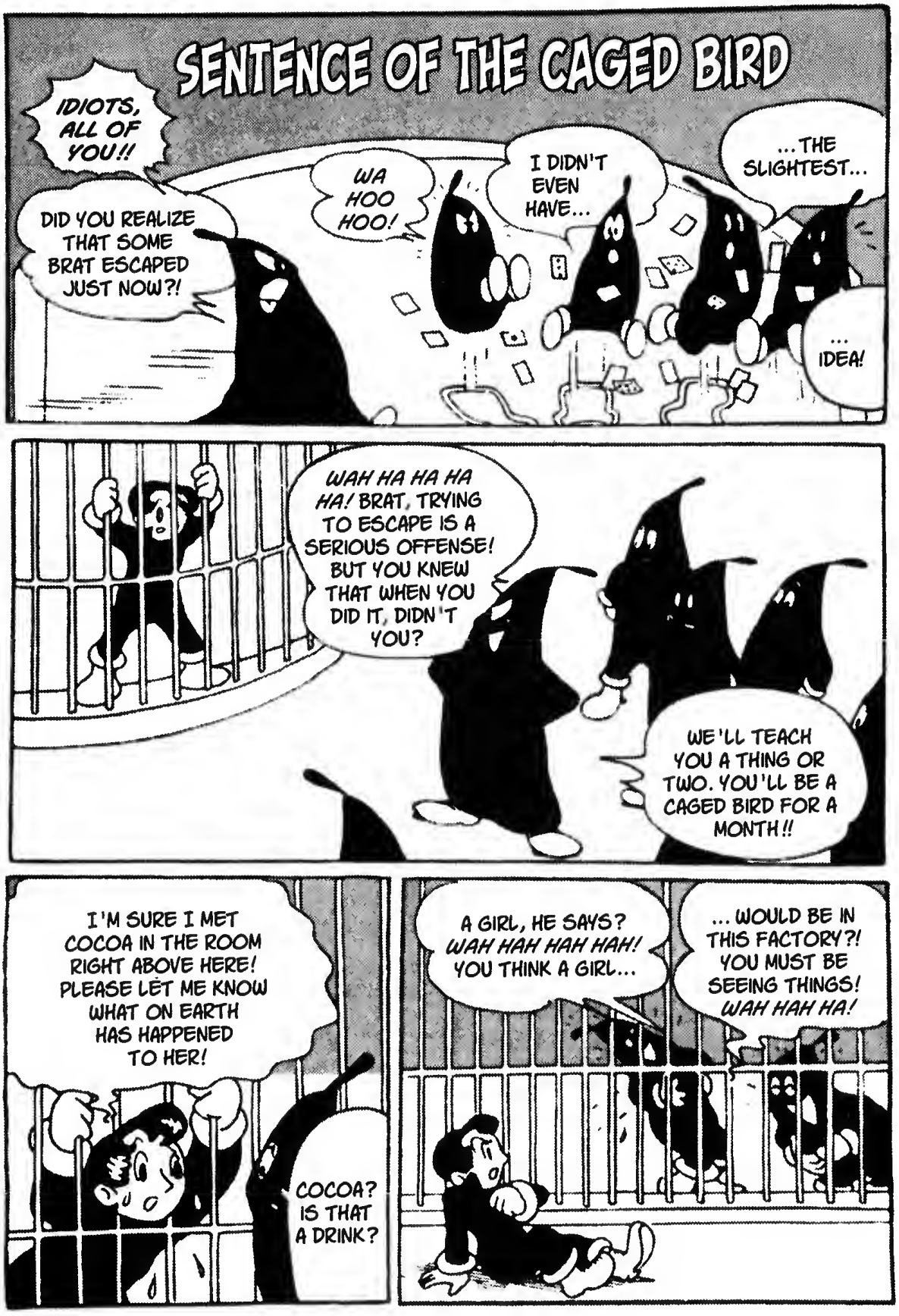
YOU WANT A REST? IVAN, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE 180 PER CENT?
≥HMPH!≤ IVAN, I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD BE SUCH A SELFISH CHILD.
CALL ME UNPATRIOTIC IF YOU WILL, BUT I WILL NOT WORK UNTIL YOU'VE GRANTED MY REQUEST!
FATHER, ABOUT IVAN, YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO HIM, EXCEPT THAT...
≥HMPH!≤ THAT'LL DO JUST FINE!
PROVISIONAL BREAK!!
BUT ONLY FOR TEN SEC-ONDS!
UHHH. I THINK I'M GOING TO DIE...
EVEN HELL MUST BE BETTER THAN THIS.
OLD MAN, HOW COME YOU'RE SO KIND TO ME?
I'VE GOT A NEPHEW NAMED KENICHI. HE'S RIGHT ABOUT YOUR AGE, SEE?
BACK TO WORK!!
OH, NO. THERE WASN'T EVEN THE TIME TO BREATHE A SINGLE SIGH.
ROCK, IF WE DIE HERE, WE'LL PROBABLY COME BACK TO HAUNT THE MINISTER AS GHOSTS!
THAT'S THE TRUTH.

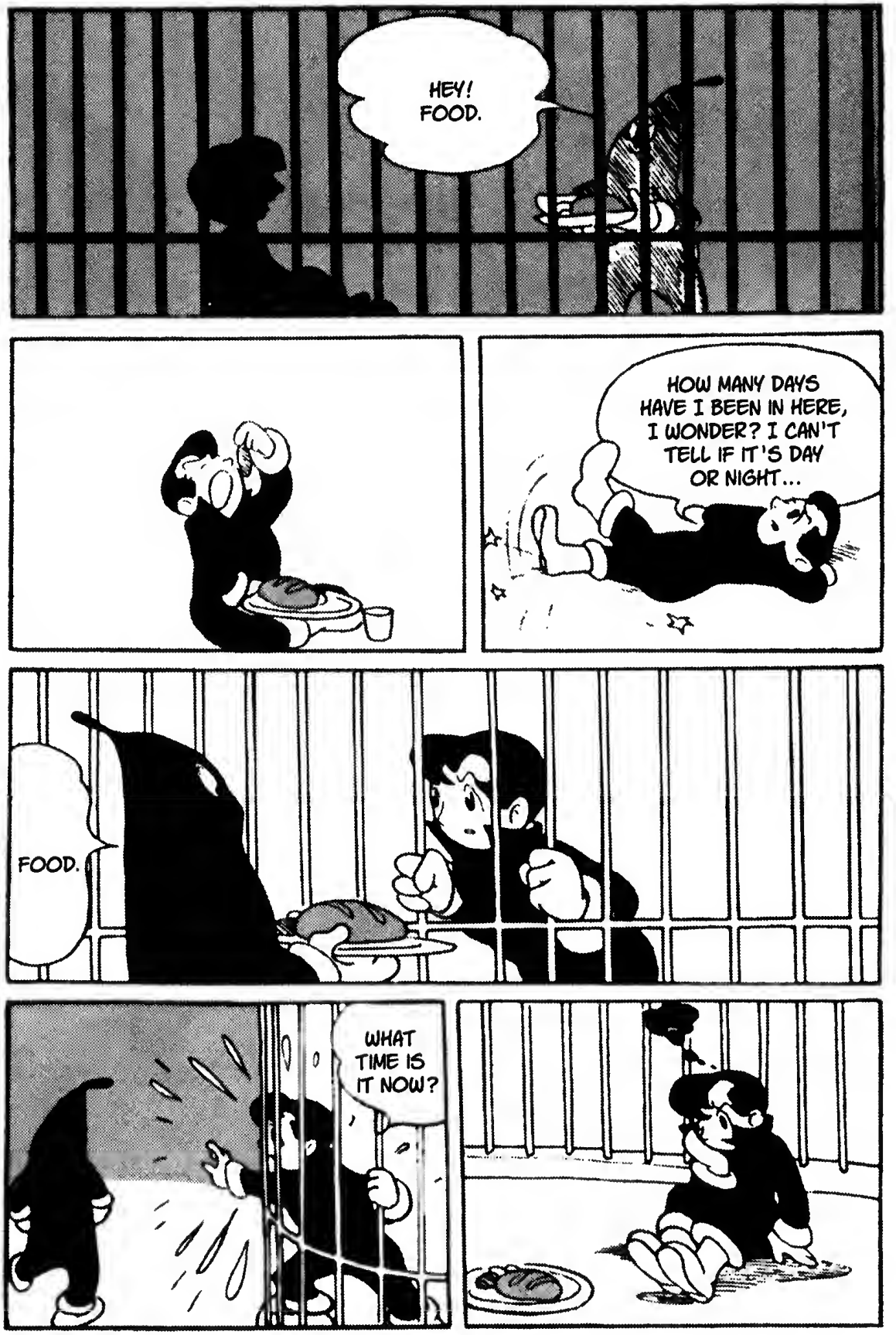
ROCK PLANS AN ESCAPE
ZZZZZZ
WHAT THE--?! ROCK, WHAT'S WRONG?
FWISH
I'VE MADE A DECISION. I CAN'T STAY ANOTHER INSTANT IN THIS PLACE! I'M RUNNING AWAY! RIGHT NOW!
SNORE
Q-QUIT JOKING AROUND!
STOP! TONIGHT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE!
IF I DON'T ESCAPE ...
... I'LL GO MAD!
WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE? IF IT'S FOOD, I'LL EAT LATER.
A-HA! OF COURSE, YOU WOULD SAY THAT, BEING A URANIAN!
YOU'LL BE NO PARTNER OF MINE! OLD MAN, GET UP!
WHAT?! EARTHQUAKE? THUNDER STORM? FIRE? WHAT'S THIS? IS IT A NIGHT ESCAPE?
I-IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. PLEASE STOP! GIVE IT UP!
BAH! YOU'VE LOST YOUR NERVE TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?

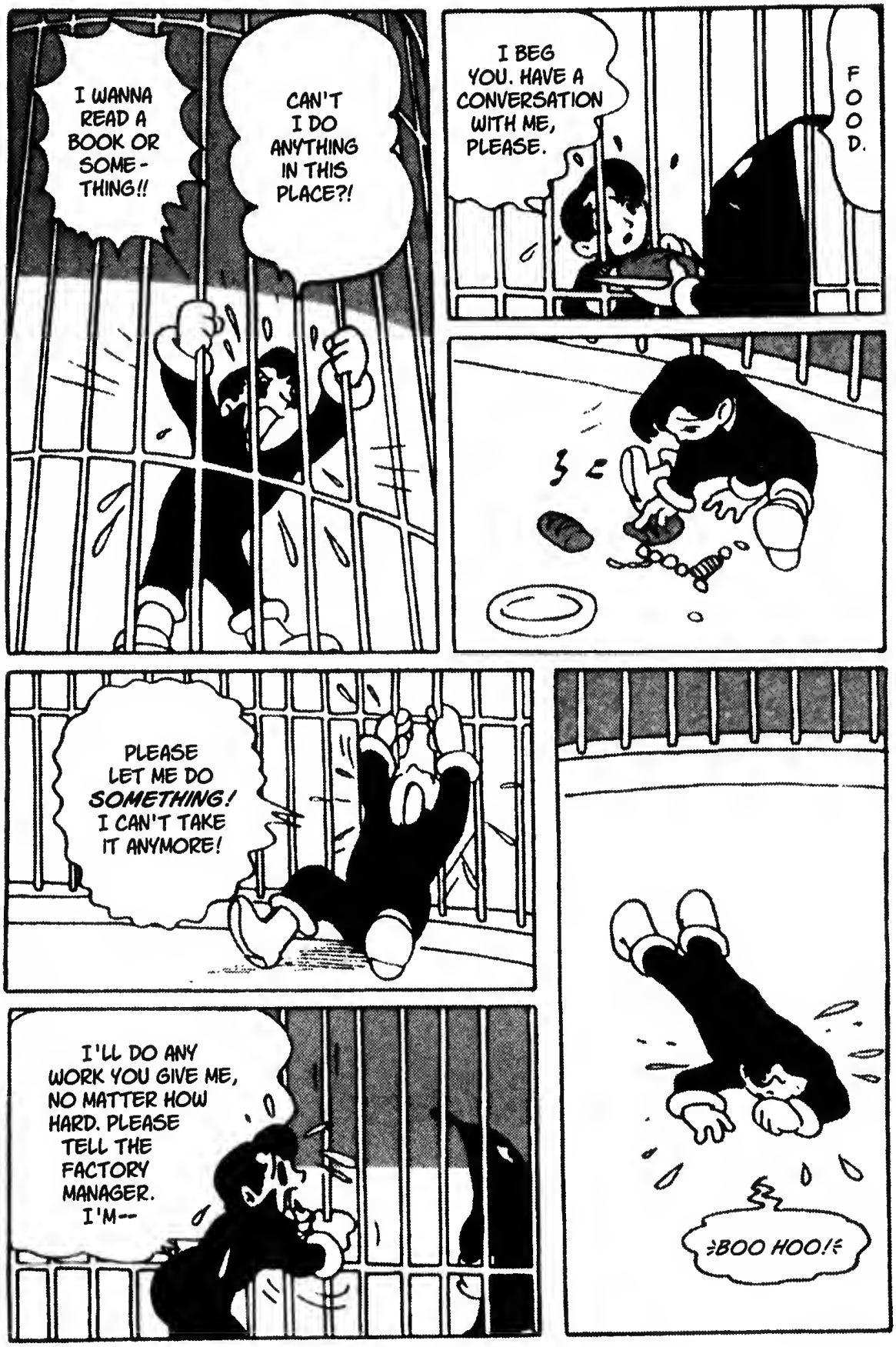

FINE! SPINE-LESS COWARDS. I'LL DO IT ON MY OWN!
HE'S DOING THIS TOO HASTILY!
HEY! IF IT GETS TOO DANGEROUS, YOU COME RIGHT BACK!
AH!
LET'S GO AND GET SOME SLEEP.
HEY, WAIT. THIS IS THE LAST SPOT.
THAT WAS CLOSE!
NOTHING HERE. LET'S LEAVE.
HUH? A SWITCH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?

THIS MIGHT BE A SECRET PASSAGE TO AN EXIT!!
CRI-KCRI-KCRI-KCRI-K
KACHI-NK
THERE'S SOME-THING HANGING HERE.
THIS IS THE FACTORY MANA-GER'S RUBA-SHKA!
LET'S SEE NOW... OH!
IT'S COCOA!
≠SNORE≠ ≠SNORE≠
I WAS RIGHT! IT IS COCOA! IT'S ME! IT'S ME, ROCK!
WHUH?
WHEN DID THEY BRING YOU HERE?! COME ON! WE'LL ESCAPE TOGETH-ER!
?!

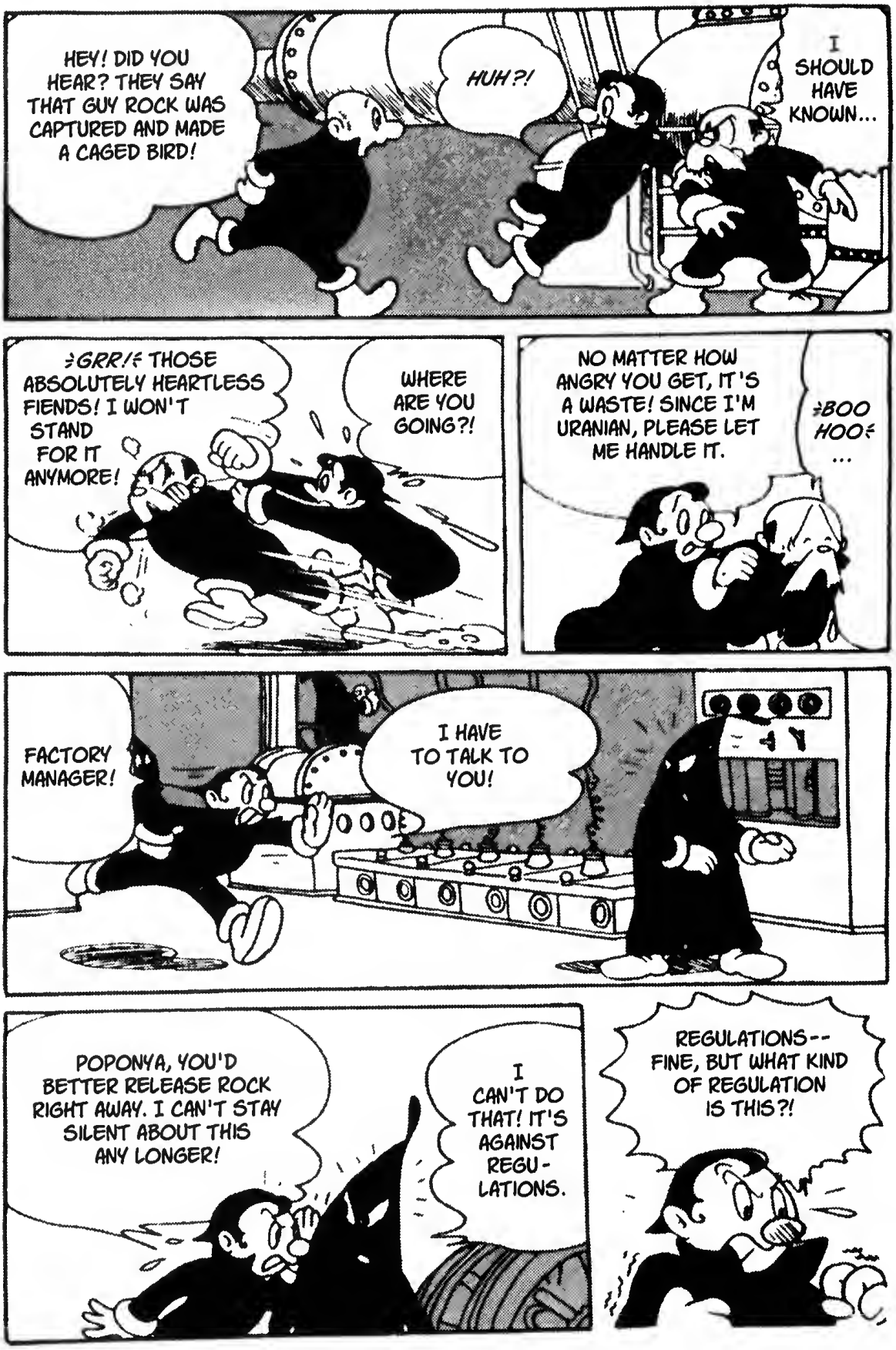
THERE'S NO TIME TO FOOL AROUND!
I UNDERSTAND. THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE OVER THERE!
GET IN HERE!
QUICKLY!!
THUMP!!
HEE HEE HEE
HEY! COCOA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M TELLING YOU, COME DOWN HERE QUICKLY!


SENTENCE OF THE CAGED BIRD
IDIOTS, ALL OF YOU!!
DID YOU REALIZE THAT SOME BRAT ESCAPED JUST NOW?!
WA HOO HOO!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE...
...THE SLIGHTEST...
... IDEA!
WAH HA HA HA HA! BRAT, TRYING TO ESCAPE IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE! BUT YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU?
WE'LL TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO. YOU'LL BE A CAGED BIRD FOR A MONTH!!
I'M SURE I MET COCOA IN THE ROOM RIGHT ABOVE HERE! PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED TO HER!
COCOA? IS THAT A DRINK?
A GIRL, HE SAYS? WAH HAH HAH HAH! YOU THINK A GIRL...
... WOULD BE IN THIS FACTORY?! YOU MUST BE SEEING THINGS! WAH HAH HA!


HEY! FOOD.
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE I BEEN IN HERE, I WONDER? I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S DAY OR NIGHT...
FOOD.
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?


I WANNA READ A BOOK OR SOME-THING!!
CAN'T I DO ANYTHING IN THIS PLACE?!
I BEG YOU. HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH ME, PLEASE.
F O O D.
PLEASE LET ME DO SOMETHING! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
I'LL DO ANY WORK YOU GIVE ME, NO MATTER HOW HARD. PLEASE TELL THE FACTORY MANAGER. I'M--
≠BOO HOO!≠

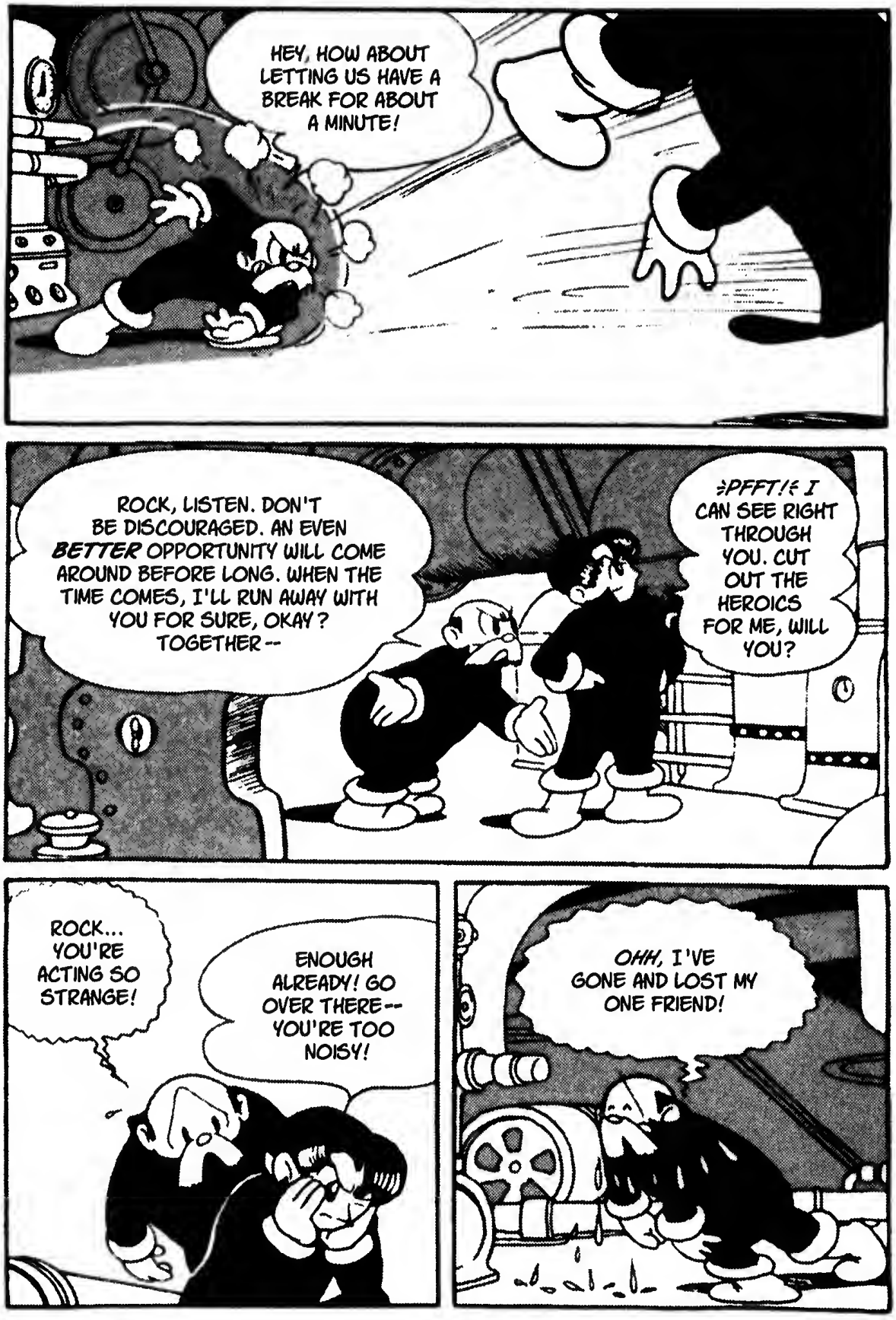
BLAST IT! EVEN CRIMINALS GET TO READ BOOKS, DON'T THEY? DRAT! DO THEY INTEND TO TURN ME INTO A LIVING MUMMY?! TH-THOSE NO GOOD--! HOW CAN THEY DO THIS TO ME?!
OH! MR. RAT...
DON'T BE AFRAID! PLEASE COME A LITTLE CLOSER SO YOU CAN TALK TO ME. OKAY? OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS IT'S BEEN, BUT I PUT A CURSE ON YOU! Y-YOU ALL, YOU DID THIS TO ME! Y-YOU! ALL OF YOU!
HEY. FOOD.

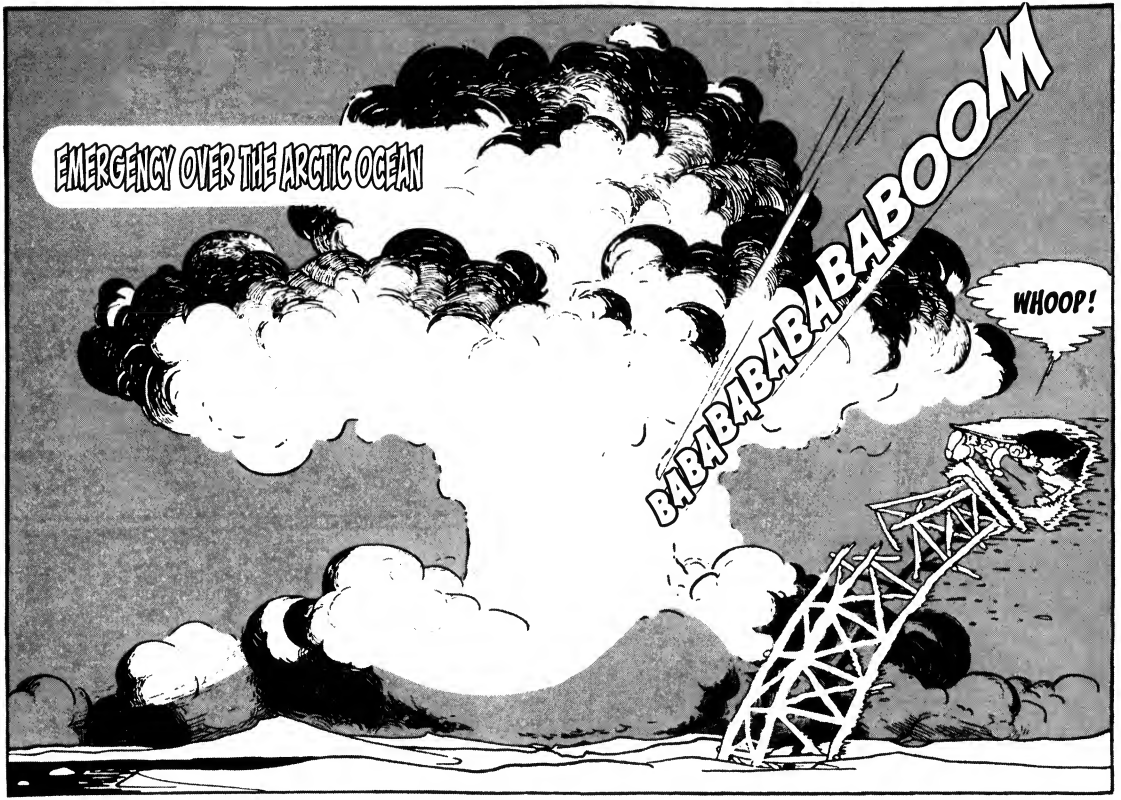

HEY! DID YOU HEAR? THEY SAY THAT GUY ROCK WAS CAPTURED AND MADE A CAGED BIRD!
HUH?!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
≠GRR!≠ THOSE ABSOLUTELY HEARTLESS FIENDS! I WON'T STAND FOR IT ANYMORE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
NO MATTER HOW ANGRY YOU GET, IT'S A WASTE! SINCE I'M URANIAN, PLEASE LET ME HANDLE IT.
≠BOO HOO≠ ...
FACTORY MANAGER!
I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
POPONYA, YOU'D BETTER RELEASE ROCK RIGHT AWAY. I CAN'T STAY SILENT ABOUT THIS ANY LONGER!
I CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S AGAINST REGU-LATIONS.
REGULATIONS-- FINE, BUT WHAT KIND OF REGULATION IS THIS?!

IVAN, IF I WERE TO SHOW ANY COMPASSION FOR THE CAPTIVES, THERE WOULD BE A REVOLT IN THIS FACTORY WITHIN A DAY, WOULDN'T THERE?
I DON'T GOVERN THESE MEN WITH FORCE. I CONTROL THEM WITH FEAR! THAT'S HOW, IN THE END, I MAINTAIN PEACE.
=HMPH!= IF YOU DON'T RELEASE ROCK, THEN I'LL LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT YOUR BEING A WOMAN!
YOU CAN'T!
WELL, THEN? WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE? WILL YOU LET ROCK GO?
I HAVE NO CHOICE. I WILL RELEASE HIM.
ROCK!!

ROCK'S ODD BEHAVIOUR

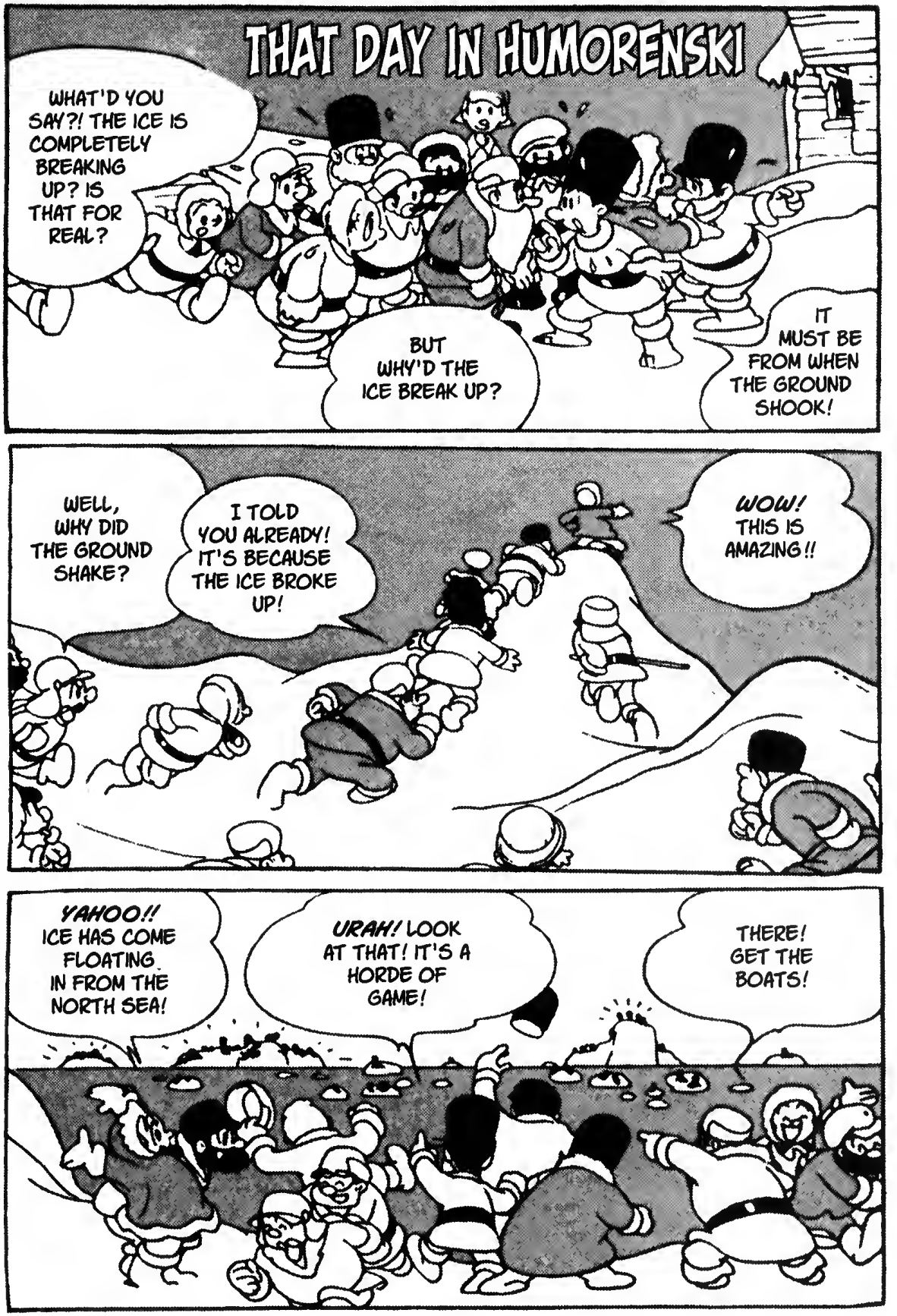
ROCK, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU IN THERE.
DON'T YOU MIND ABOUT ME!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP FROM ONE OF THE FACTORY MANAGER'S SPIES!
OH, I KNOW. I'D BETTER GET BACK TO THE FACTORY, RIGHT?
WAIT! ROCK!
WA-HOO! ROCK, DID THEY LET YOU OUT?!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS.
QUIT DAWDLING AND GO STRAIGHT BACK TO YOUR JOB, BRAT!


HEY, HOW ABOUT LETTING US HAVE A BREAK FOR ABOUT A MINUTE!
ROCK, LISTEN. DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. AN EVEN BETTER OPPORTUNITY WILL COME AROUND BEFORE LONG. WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL RUN AWAY WITH YOU FOR SURE, OKAY? TOGETHER--
≒PFFT!≒ I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU. CUT OUT THE HEROICS FOR ME, WILL YOU?
ROCK... YOU'RE ACTING SO STRANGE!
ENOUGH ALREADY! GO OVER THERE-- YOU'RE TOO NOISY!
OHH, I'VE GONE AND LOST MY ONE FRIEND!


EMERGENCY OVER THE ARCTIC OCEAN
BABABABABABOOM
WHOOP!

KASMASH!
R-R-R-REPORT FROM NORM METEOROLIGICAL OBSERVATORY. OVER-OVER-OVER-OVER-OVER-OVER OVER THE NORTH POLE A L-L-L-L-L-L-L-LARGE ATOMIC MUSHROOM CLOUD HAS BEEN SPOTTED. WUHUHUHUHUHUH!
CRASH!
SEVERE QUAKE OF SEISMIC INTENSITY XYZ! REGION XYZ, AT X HOURS, Y MINUTES, Z SECONDS. LABORATORY REPORT, XYZ EARTHQUAKE, FROM IRELAND.
RATTLE RATTLE
MEXICO ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY REPORT! THE EPICENTER IS CLOSE TO NORTH LATITUDE 380 DEGREES, EAST LONGITUDE 365 DEGREES. OVER! OUT! ROGER!

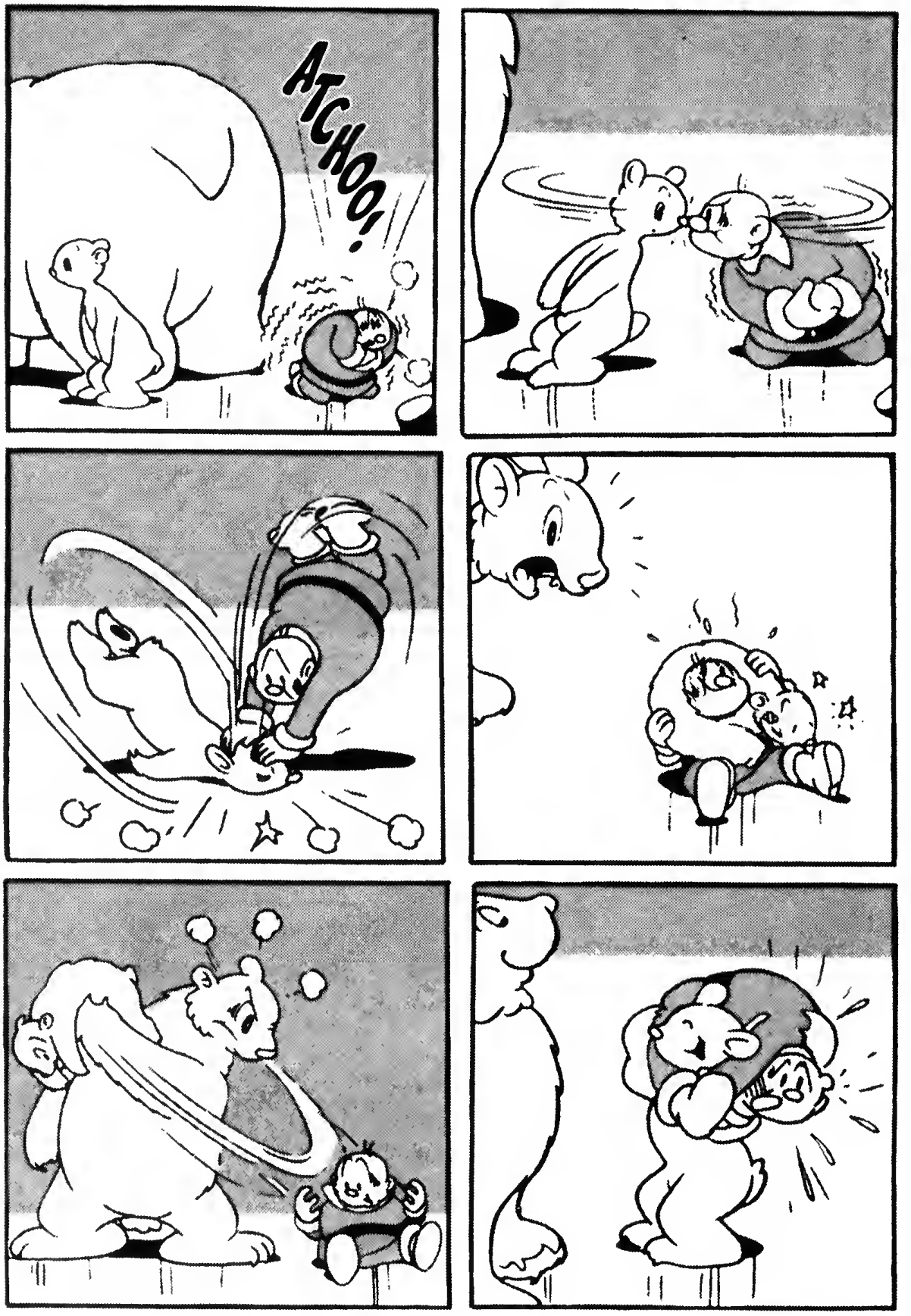
CHINSHOU KAI WAN KWONTEN PYEPON WANCHOW CHA TEN MAHSHUDE POWTSUDEY PEHPIN.
CHIKIRUI TOKEHA WAMANU GITSUKO KEKICORU MOCHIKA PAPA...
EEK!
EXTRA! EXTRA! THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE EARTHQUAKE! PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS PAPER! EXTRA EXTRA!
BOOF BOOF THWAP SQEEZE
EXTRA! A-ATTEMPTED MURDER... EXTRA! HELP!!


THAT DAY IN HUMORENSKI
WHAT'D YOU SAY?! THE ICE IS COMPLETELY BREAKING UP? IS THAT FOR REAL?
BUT WHY'D THE ICE BREAK UP?
IT MUST BE FROM WHEN THE GROUND SHOOK!
WELL, WHY DID THE GROUND SHAKE?
I TOLD YOU ALREADY! IT'S BECAUSE THE ICE BROKE UP!
WOW! THIS IS AMAZING!!
YAHOO!! ICE HAS COME FLOATING IN FROM THE NORTH SEA!
URAH! LOOK AT THAT! IT'S A HORDE OF GAME!
THERE! GET THE BOATS!

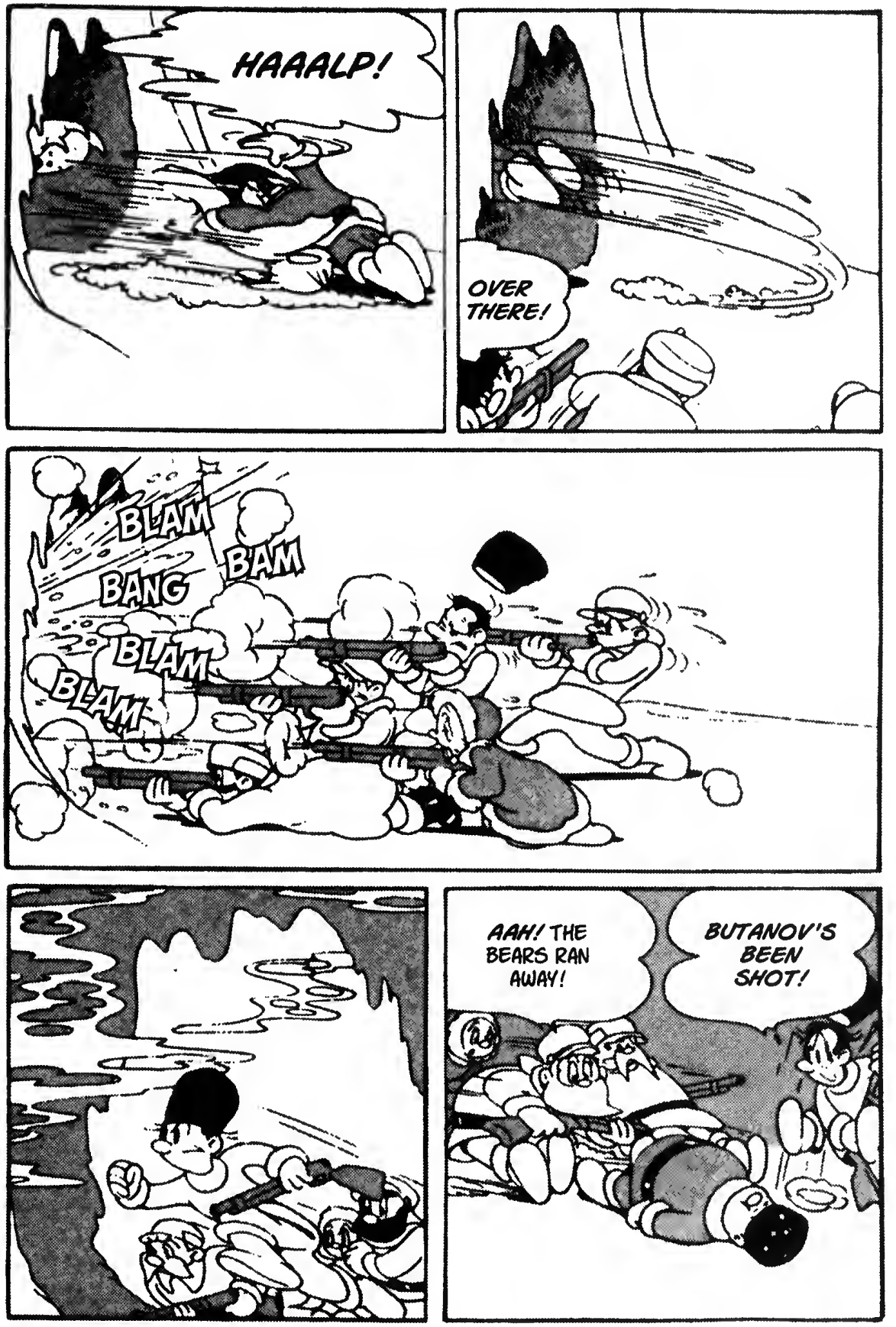
KA-BLAM BLAM
BANG
SOMEBODY HELP!!
ROAR!
PLEASE LET ME GET ON THAT ICE! I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS ALL NIGHT LONG! THINK OF YOUR AFTERLIFE!

PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS! AAH! HELP!
BABABABAM
BLAM
LEADER HEY, STOP FIRING WITH SUCH DULL NOISES!
SPUD
POOF
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS ODD. I LOADED THEM WITH MARBLES!
THIS BEAR DOESN'T DO YOU ANY FAVORS!
BABABABAAM

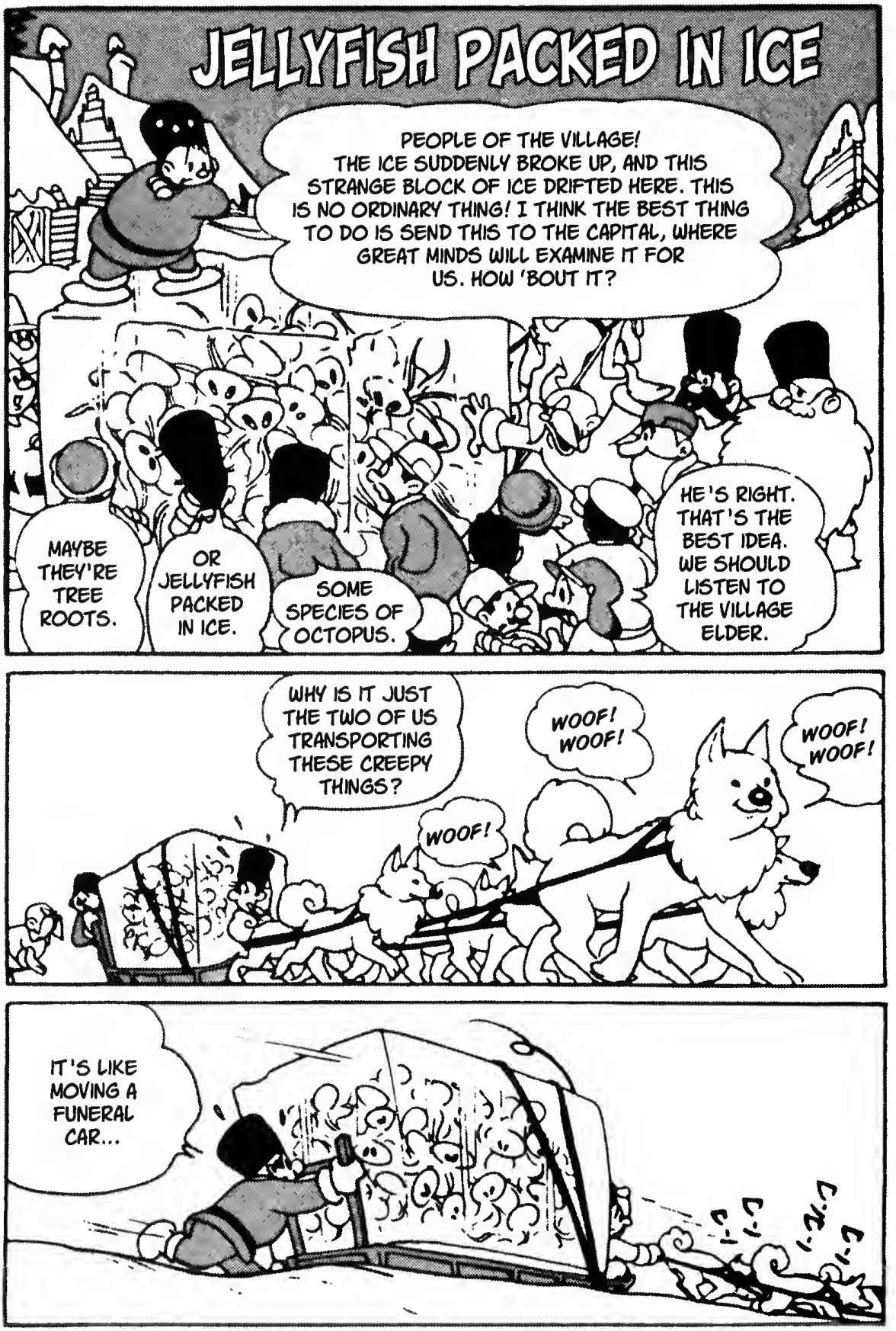
STOP SHOOTING LIKE THAT! WHAT THE--?! HEY, ISN'T HE THAT FELLOW BUTANOV?!
OH! YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S BEING CARRIED OFF BY BEARS!
HE MUST HAVE FALLEN OFF THE LOOKOUT TOWER.
THEY PICKED UP BUTANOV AND TOOK HIM AWAY!
SLIP
FLIP
THUD
AAH! HELP ME!
BLAM
BABANG
GROWL!

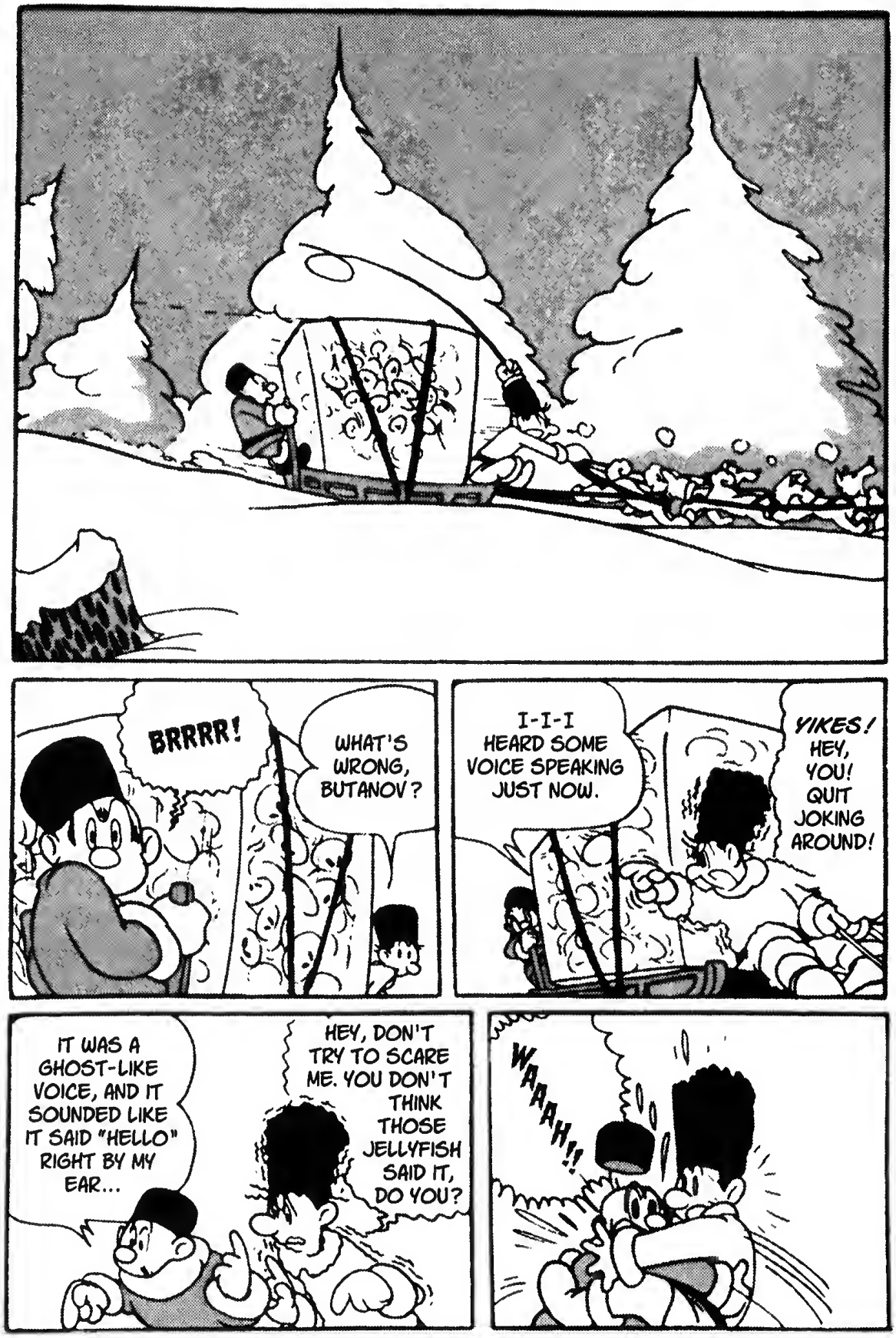

ATCHOO!

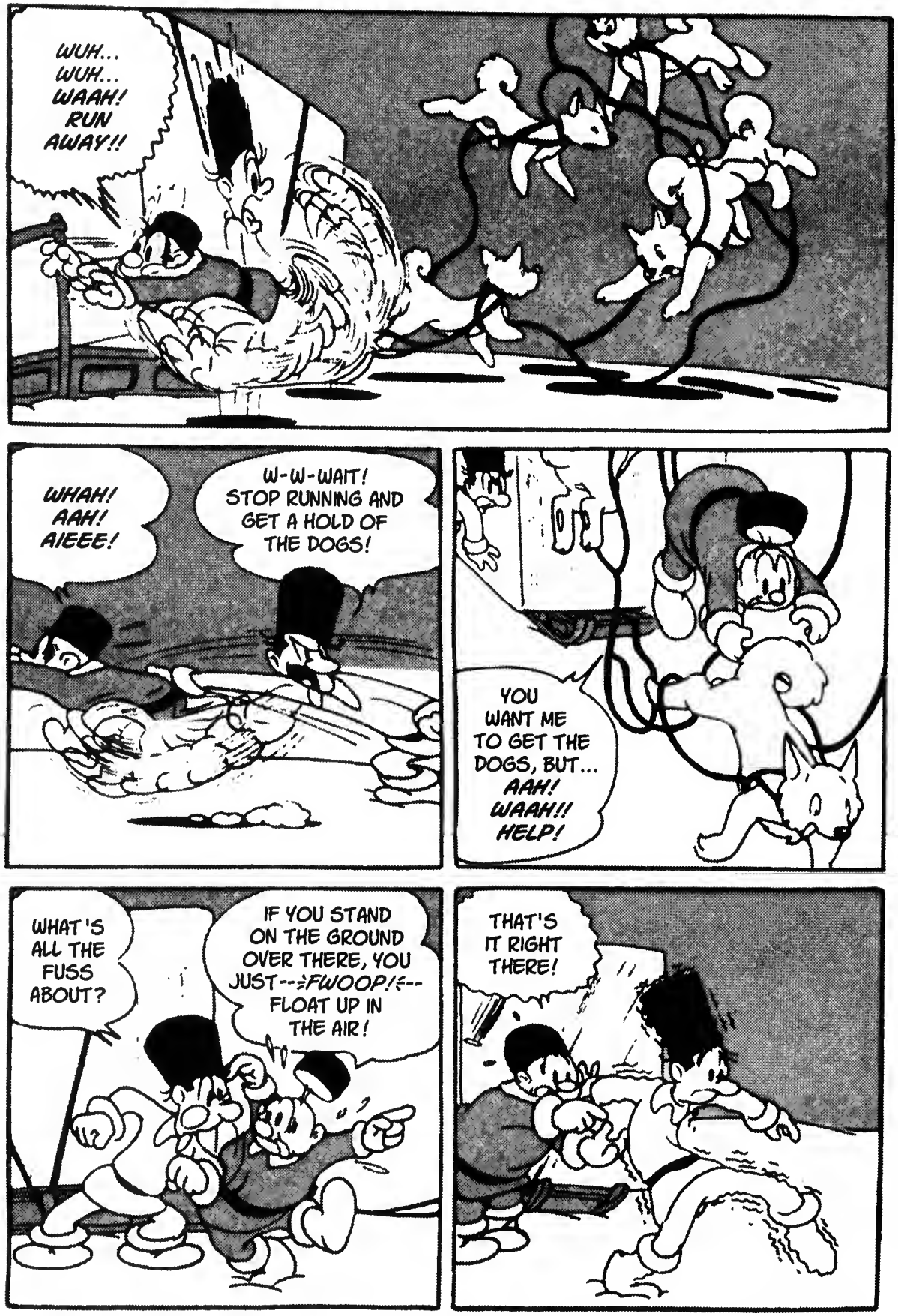
HUH?!
WAHH! AAH!
YOO HA HOO!

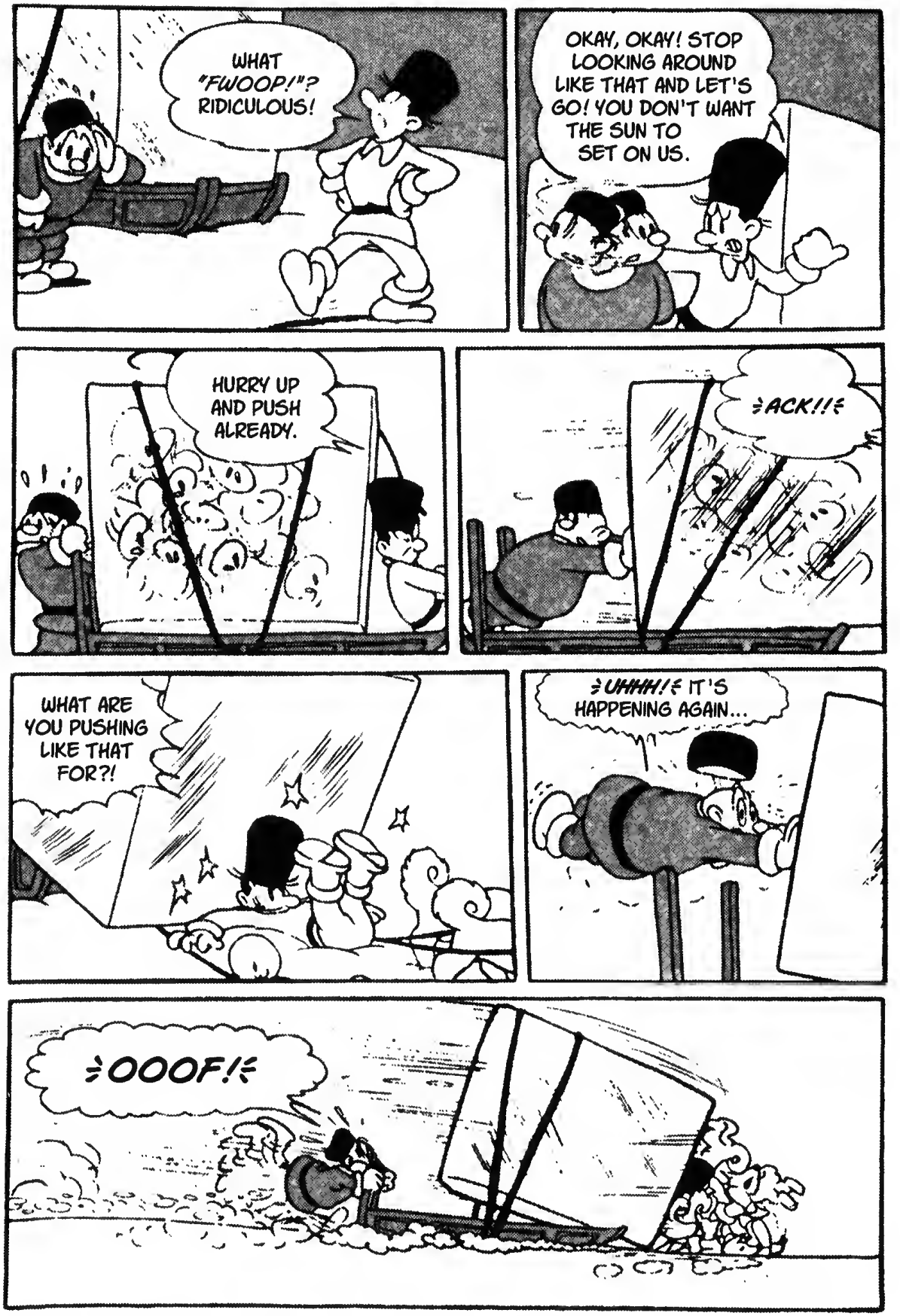

HAAALP!
OVER THERE!
BLAM
BANG
BAM
BLAM
BLAM
AAH! THE BEARS RAN AWAY!
BUTANOV'S BEEN SHOT!

OH, P-POOR, POOR BUTANOV!
WE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOU, AND THIS IS HOW IT ENDS UP?
IT WASN'T ME WHO SHOT YOU! PLEASE DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME! MY DEAR FRIEND, BUTANOV!
NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PAY YOU BACK THAT TEN YEN I BORROWED THREE YEARS AGO. WHAT A SAD MEMORY! AMEN!
GIVE IT BACK!!
WHAT'S THIS THEN? WHAT A RIDICULOUS WASTE OF A PRAYER!
IDIOT! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.
WAH HOO HEE HO!
YIPE!

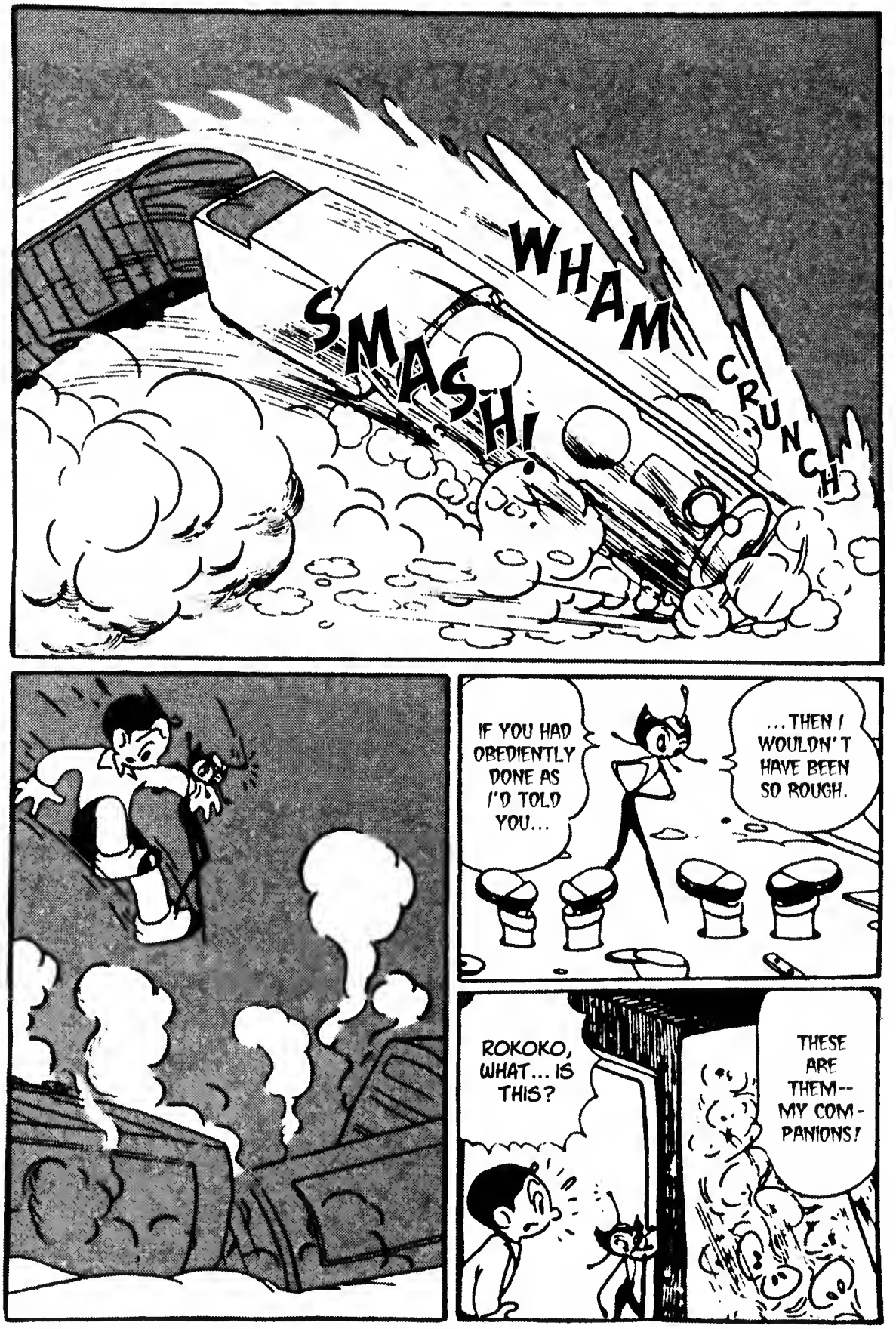

JELLYFISH PACKED IN ICE
PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE! THE ICE SUDDENLY BROKE UP, AND THIS STRANGE BLOCK OF ICE DRIFTED HERE. THIS IS NO ORDINARY THING! I THINK THE BEST THING TO DO IS SEND THIS TO THE CAPITAL, WHERE GREAT MINDS WILL EXAMINE IT FOR US. HOW 'BOUT IT?
MAYBE THEY'RE TREE ROOTS.
OR JELLYFISH PACKED IN ICE.
SOME SPECIES OF OCTOPUS.
HE'S RIGHT. THAT'S THE BEST IDEA. WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THE VILLAGE ELDER.
WHY IS IT JUST THE TWO OF US TRANSPORTING THESE CREEPY THINGS?
WOOF!
WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF! WOOF!
IT'S LIKE MOVING A FUNERAL CAR...


BRRRR!
WHAT'S WRONG, BUTANOV?
I-I-I HEARD SOME VOICE SPEAKING JUST NOW.
YIKES! HEY, YOU! QUIT JOKING AROUND!
IT WAS A GHOST-LIKE VOICE, AND IT SOUNDED LIKE IT SAID "HELLO" RIGHT BY MY EAR...
HEY, DON'T TRY TO SCARE ME. YOU DON'T THINK THOSE JELLYFISH SAID IT, DO YOU?
WAAAH!!


WUH... WUH... WAAH! RUN AWAY!!
WHAH! AAH! AIEEE!
W-W-WAIT! STOP RUNNING AND GET A HOLD OF THE DOGS!
YOU WANT ME TO GET THE DOGS, BUT... AAH! WAAH!! HELP!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
IF YOU STAND ON THE GROUND OVER THERE, YOU JUST--⇒FWOOP!⇐-- FLOAT UP IN THE AIR!
THAT'S IT RIGHT THERE!

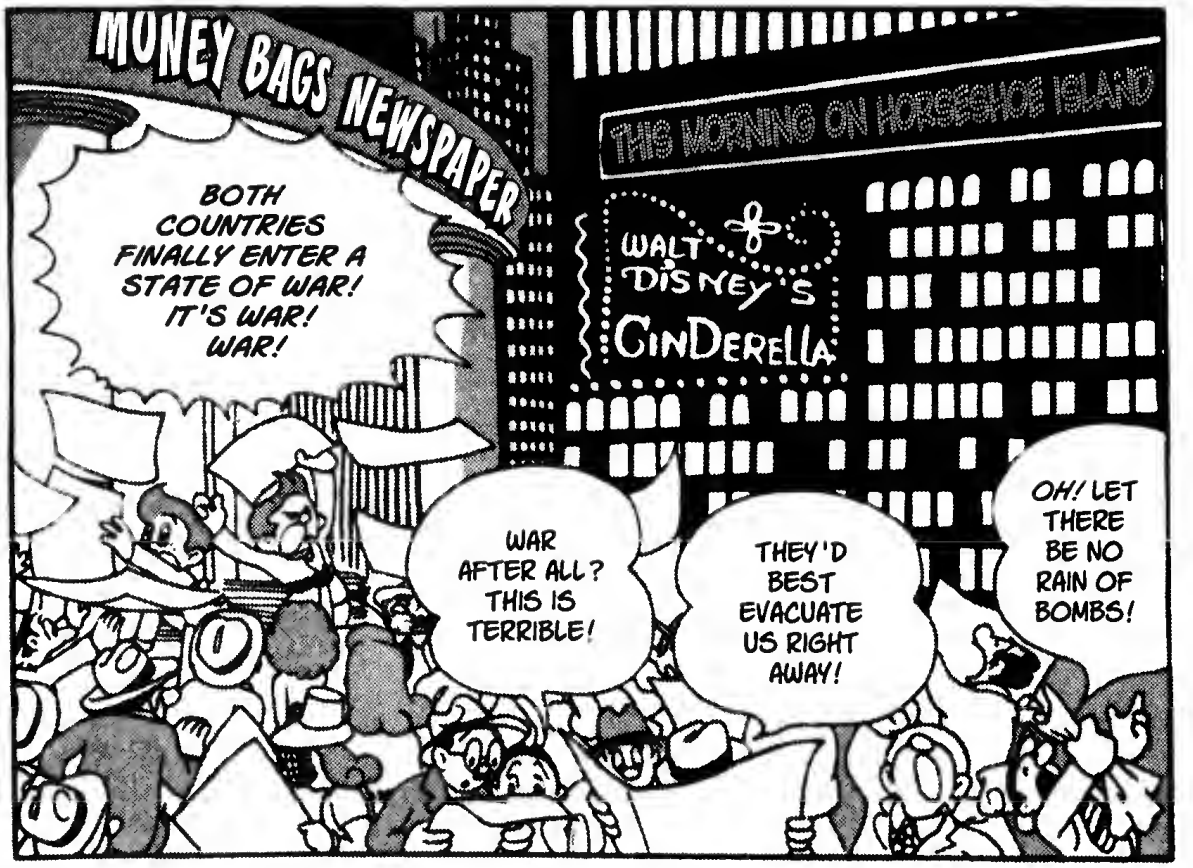

WHAT "FWOOP!"? RIDICULOUS!
OKAY, OKAY! STOP LOOKING AROUND LIKE THAT AND LET'S GO! YOU DON'T WANT THE SUN TO SET ON US.
HURRY UP AND PUSH ALREADY.
≷ACK!!≷
WHAT ARE YOU PUSHING LIKE THAT FOR?!
≷UHHH!≷ IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...
≷OOOF!≷

THE DERAILED TRAIN
VOOOM
DID YOU JUST SAY SOME-THING?
NOPE!
ODD. I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU SHOUT, "STOP THE TRAIN! STOP THE TRAIN!"
WHY WOULD I TELL YOU TO STOP AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
WAIT! I'M SURE I CAN HEAR IT! OH! IT'S SAYING IT WANTS THE ICE-PACKED JELLYFISH THAT ARE LOADED IN THE FREIGHT CAR...
HEY, HEY! ARE YOU HALF ASLEEP?! GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
W-WE MUST! IT'S SAYING IF WE DON'T STOP THEN IT'LL DERAIL THE TRAIN! WE'RE IN DANGER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! FOOL! ARE YOU TRYING TO STOP THE TRAIN?! STOP!!

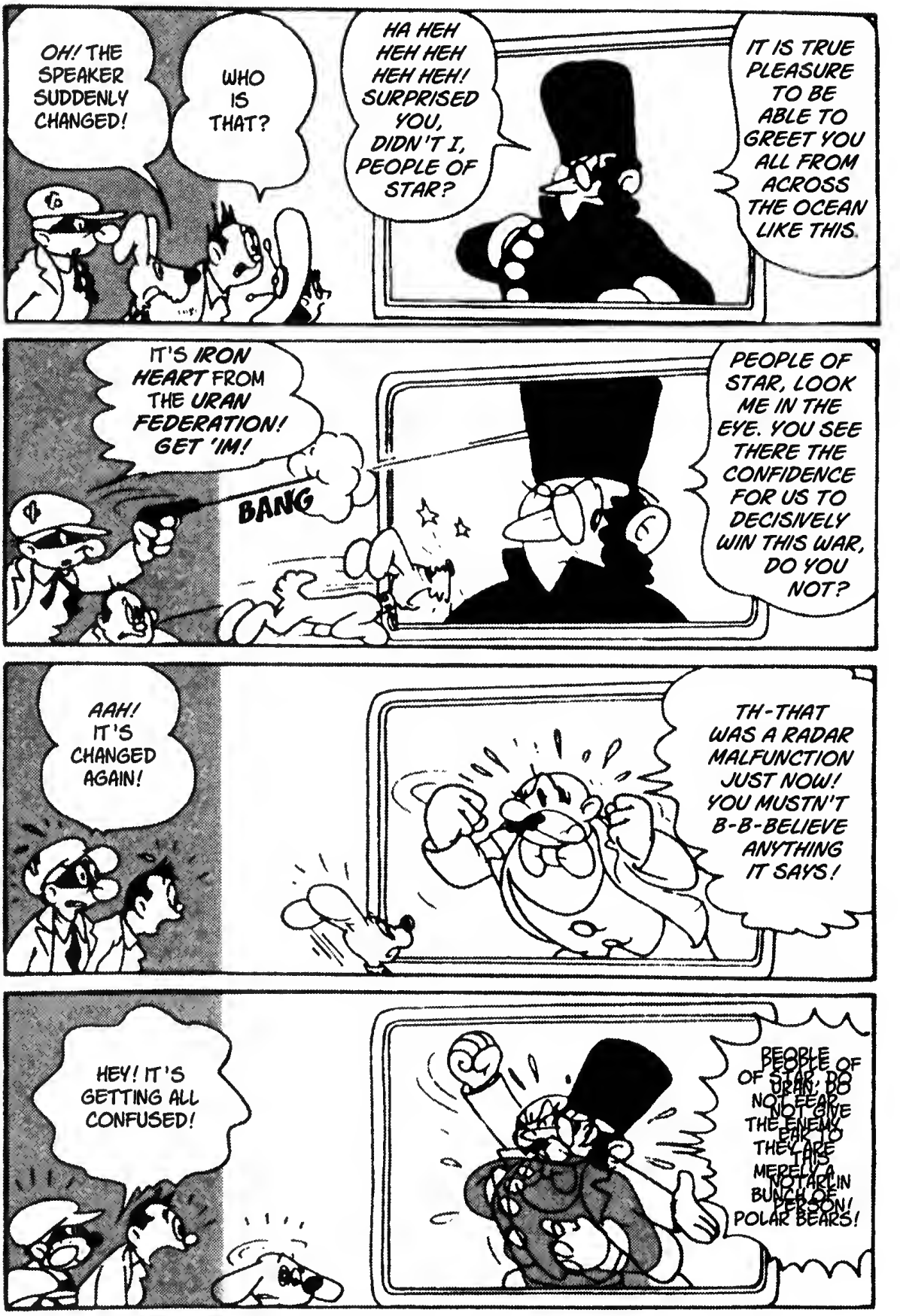

SMASH!
WHAM
CRUNCH
IF YOU HAD OBEDIENTLY DONE AS I'D TOLD YOU...
...THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO ROUGH.
ROKOKO, WHAT... IS THIS?
THESE ARE THEM-- MY COMPANIONS!

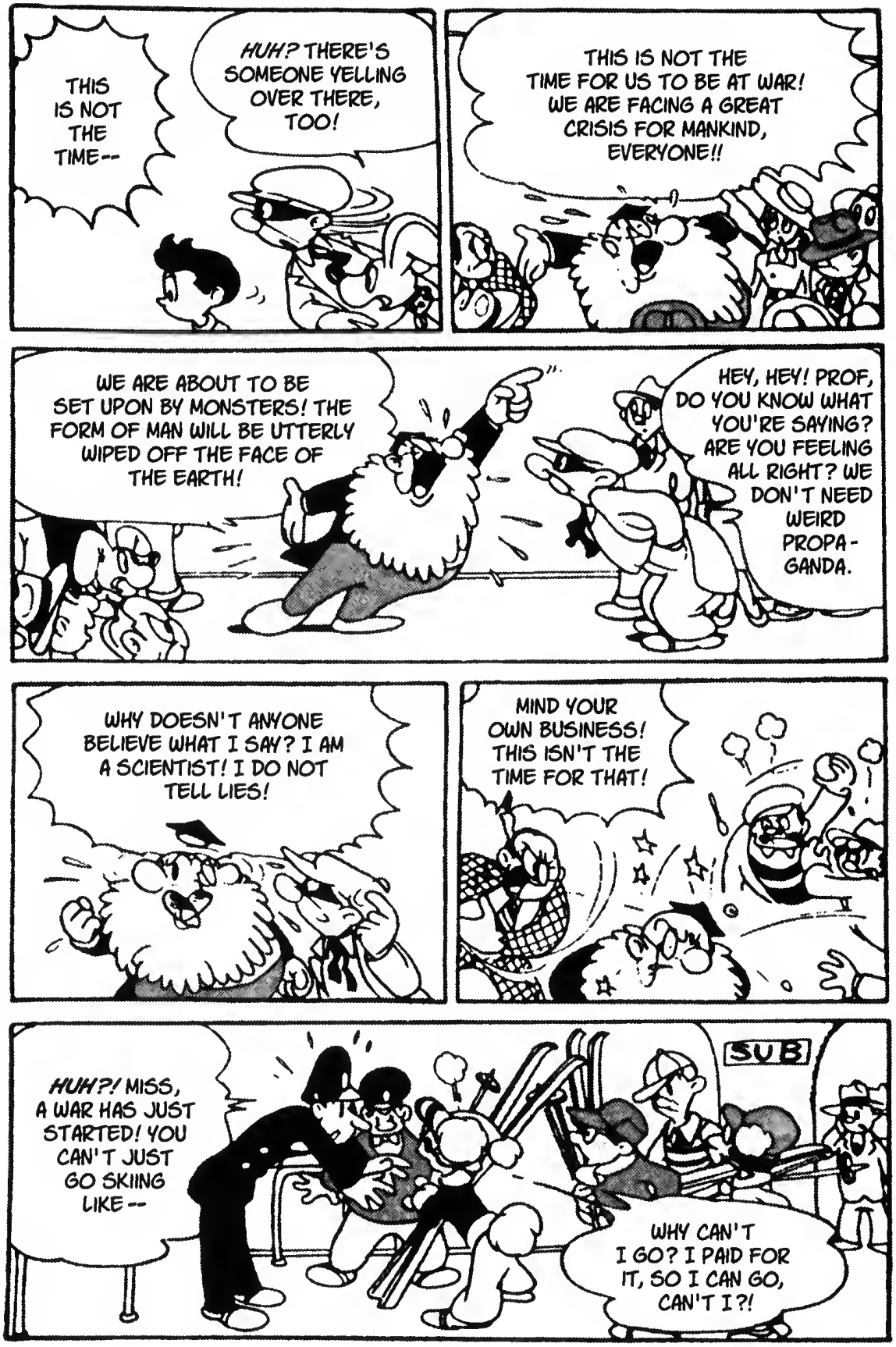
THE MIRACULOUS FLOATING BATTLESHIP

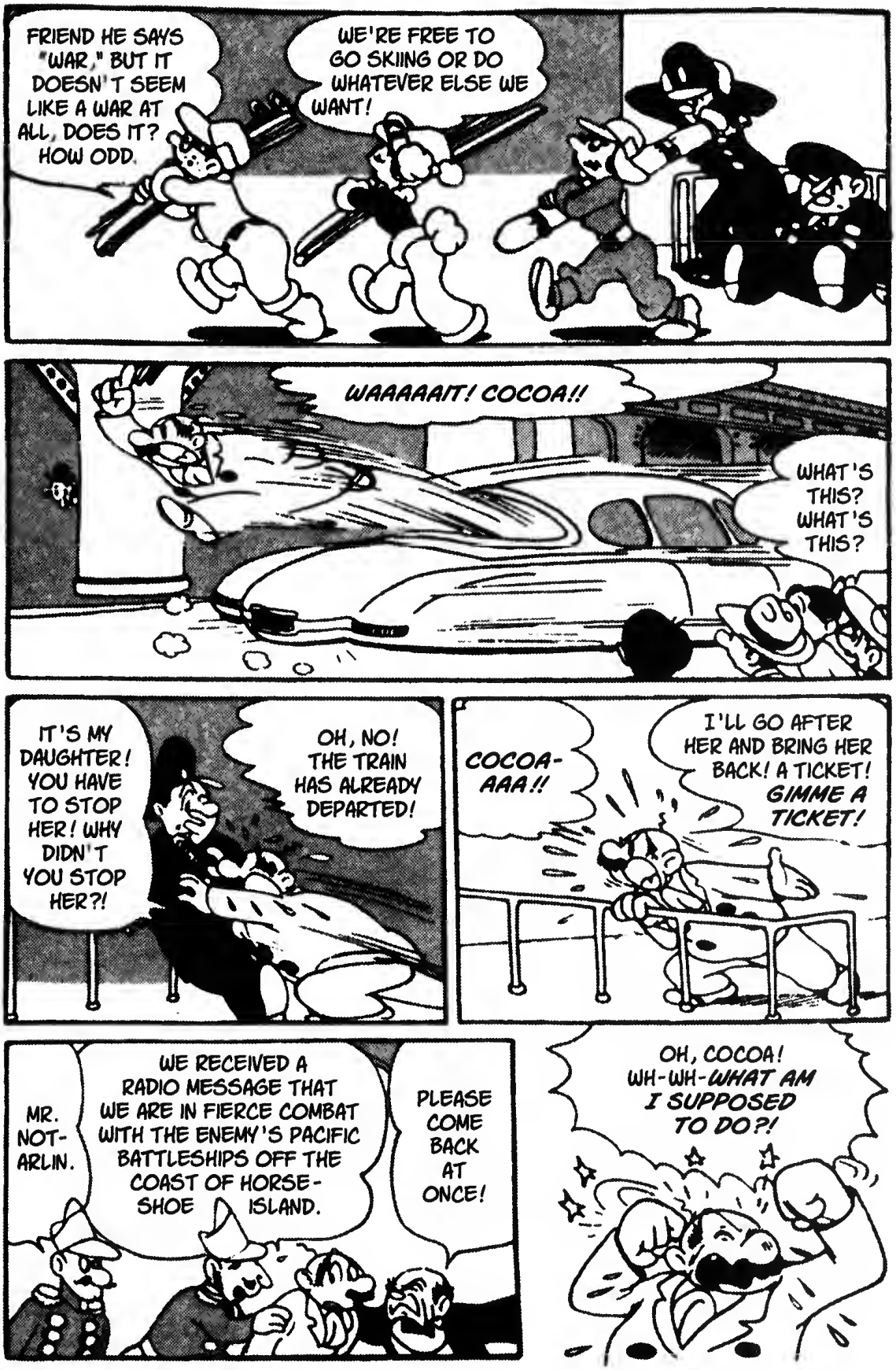
VIDEO BATTLE


MONEY BAGS NEWSPAPER
BOTH COUNTRIES FINALLY ENTER A STATE OF WAR! IT'S WAR! WAR!
THIS MORNING ON HORSESHOE ISLAND
WALT DISNEY'S CINDERELLA
WAR AFTER ALL? THIS IS TERRIBLE!
THEY'D BEST EVACUATE US RIGHT AWAY!
OH! LET THERE BE NO RAIN OF BOMBS!

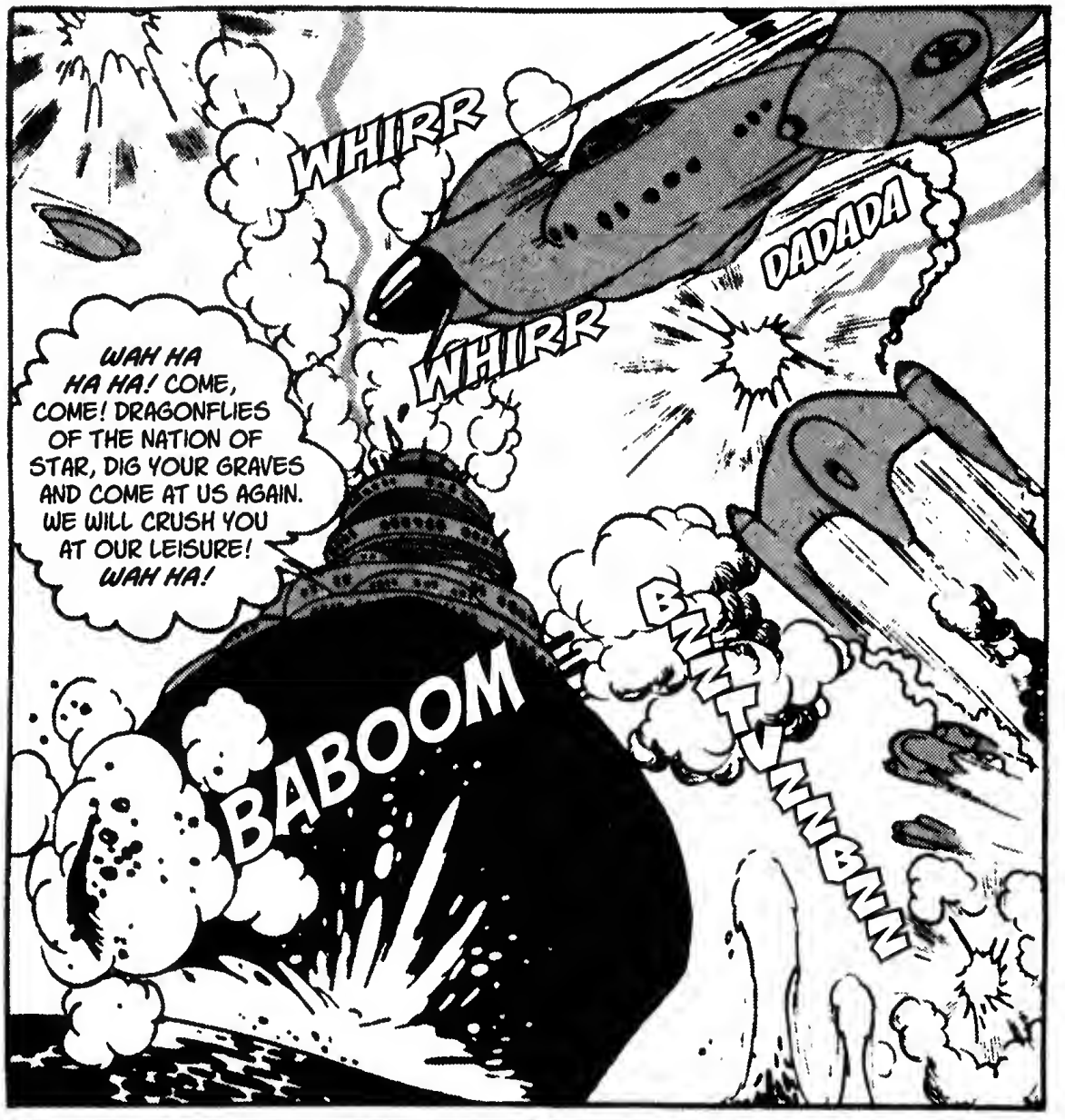
WOOO WOOO
WARNING! WARNING! THE ENEMY'S 20TH ROCKET DIVISION HAS APPEARED SOUTH OF DESSERT COURSE CITY!
AAH! RABID DOGS AND GANGSTERS JUST JUMPED IN HERE TOO!! YOU SONS OF --!!
ARH ARH! SNARL SNARL!
WHY CAN'T WE COME IN HERE, TOO?! ISN'T EVERY-ONE'S LIFE PRECIOUS?!
HEY, HEY! LISTEN, LISTEN! IT'S THE NEWS! WAR NEWS!
MY COURAGEOUS CITIZENS!
DO NOT FEAR THE ENEMY. THEY ARE MERELY--

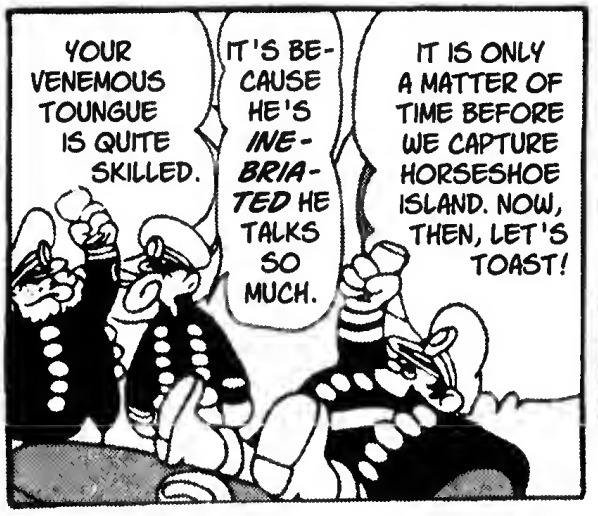

OH! THE SPEAKER SUDDENLY CHANGED!
WHO IS THAT?
HA HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH! SURPRISED YOU, DIDN'T I, PEOPLE OF STAR?
IT IS TRUE PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO GREET YOU ALL FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN LIKE THIS.
IT'S IRON HEART FROM THE URAN FEDERATION! GET 'IM!
BANG
PEOPLE OF STAR, LOOK ME IN THE EYE. YOU SEE THERE THE CONFIDENCE FOR US TO DECISIVELY WIN THIS WAR, DO YOU NOT?
AAH! IT'S CHANGED AGAIN!
TH-THAT WAS A RADAR MALFUNCTION JUST NOW! YOU MUSTN'T B-B-BELIEVE ANYTHING IT SAYS!
HEY! IT'S GETTING ALL CONFUSED!
PEOPLE OF STAR, DO NOT FEAR THE ENEMY THEY ARE MERELY A BUNCH OF POLAR BEARS!
PEOPLE OF URAN, DO NOT GIVE EAR TO THIS NOTARIN PERSON!

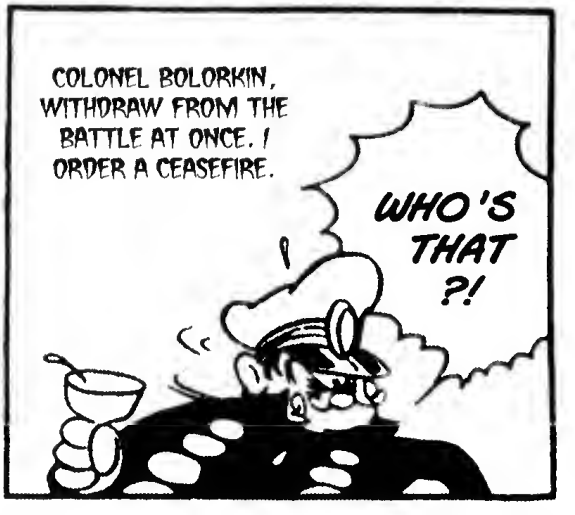

THIS IS NOT THE TIME--
HUH? THERE'S SOMEONE YELLING OVER THERE, TOO!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR US TO BE AT WAR! WE ARE FACING A GREAT CRISIS FOR MANKIND, EVERYONE!!
WE ARE ABOUT TO BE SET UPON BY MONSTERS! THE FORM OF MAN WILL BE UTTERLY WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
HEY, HEY! PROF, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT? WE DON'T NEED WEIRD PROPA-GANDA.
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE BELIEVE WHAT I SAY? I AM A SCIENTIST! I DO NOT TELL LIES!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
HUH?! MISS, A WAR HAS JUST STARTED! YOU CAN'T JUST GO SKIING LIKE--
SUB
WHY CAN'T I GO? I PAID FOR IT, SO I CAN GO, CAN'T I?!

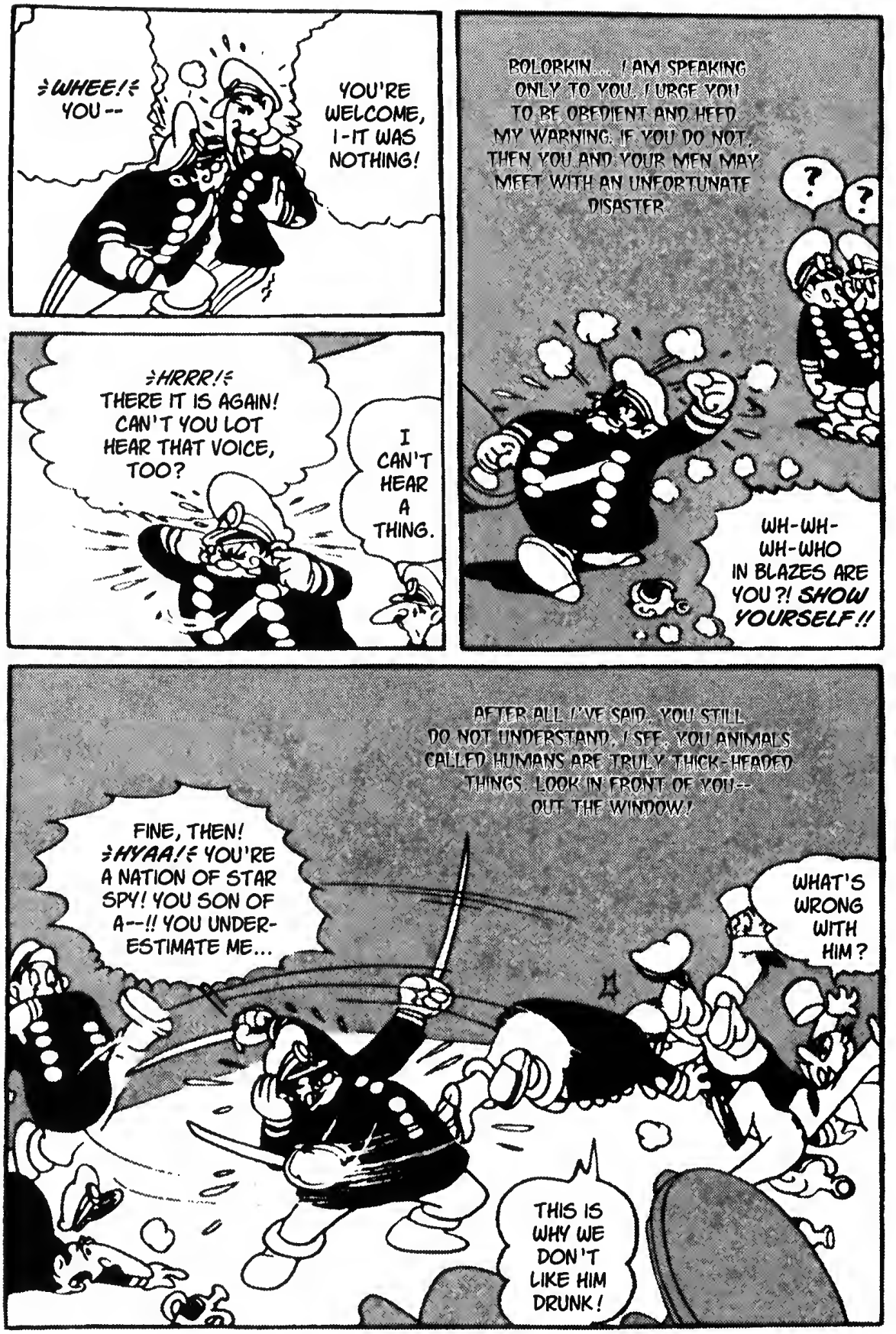

FRIEND HE SAYS "WAR," BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A WAR AT ALL, DOES IT? HOW ODD.
WE'RE FREE TO GO SKIING OR DO WHATEVER ELSE WE WANT!
WAAAAAIT! COCOA!!
WHAT'S THIS? WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S MY DAUGHTER! YOU HAVE TO STOP HER! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?!
OH, NO! THE TRAIN HAS ALREADY DEPARTED!
COCOA-AAA!!
I'LL GO AFTER HER AND BRING HER BACK! A TICKET! GIMME A TICKET!
MR. NOT-ARLIN.
WE RECEIVED A RADIO MESSAGE THAT WE ARE IN FIERCE COMBAT WITH THE ENEMY'S PACIFIC BATTLESHIPS OFF THE COAST OF HORSE-SHOE ISLAND.
PLEASE COME BACK AT ONCE!
OH, COCOA! WH-WH-WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!

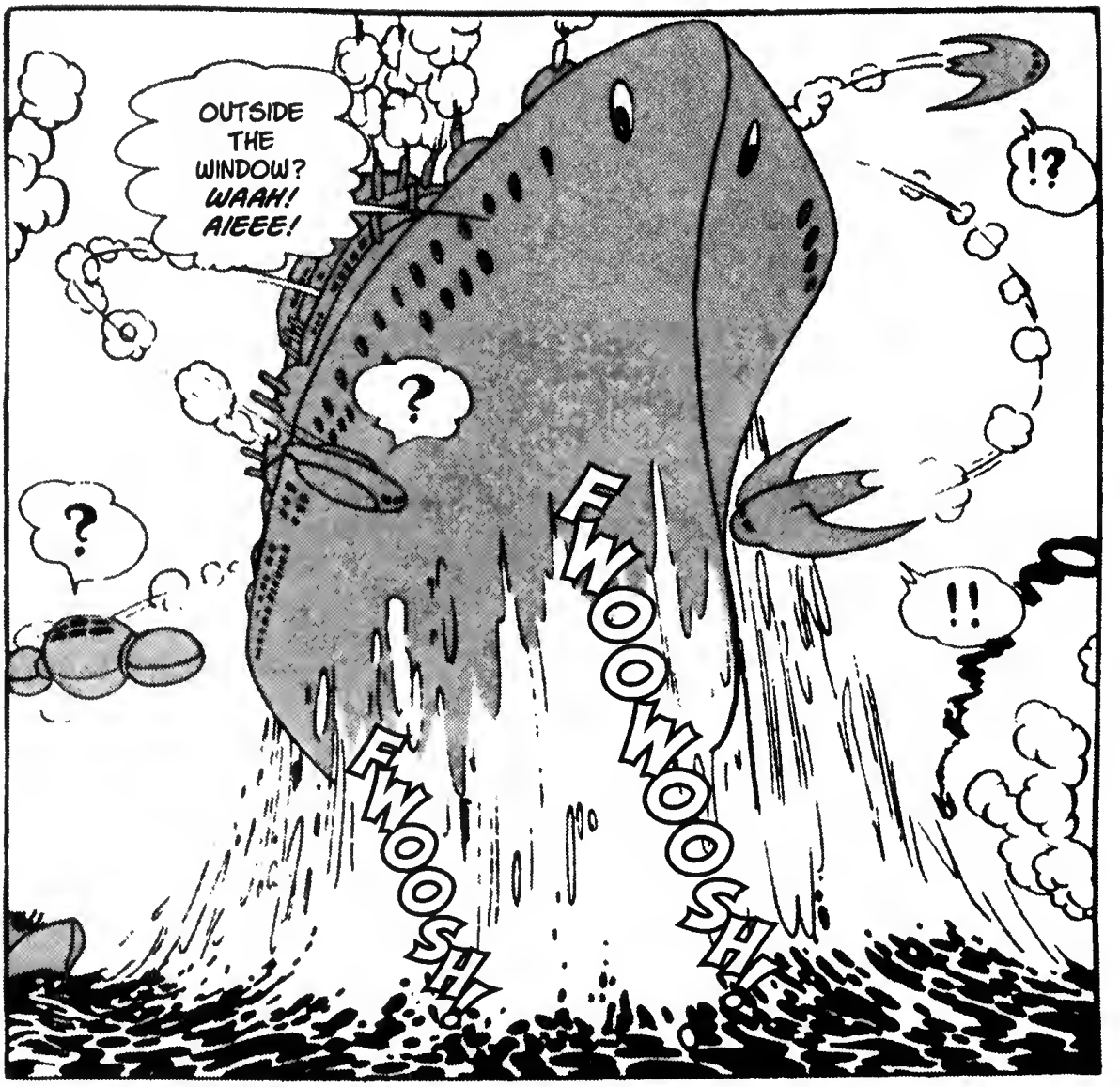
SEA BATTLE OFF THE COAST OF HORSESHOE ISLAND
VOOM
VOOM
KABLAM
BOOM
BOCK
DU DU DU DU DU
BA BA BA BA BOOM
COMMANDER, SIR, THE ENEMY IS USING WAVE RAYS!
LET THEM USE THEIR WAVES OR ANYTHING. THE NIKOLAUS IS AN UNSINKABLE SHIP. WE WILL SQUASH THEM LIKE SO MANY MOSQUITOS! WHEE!

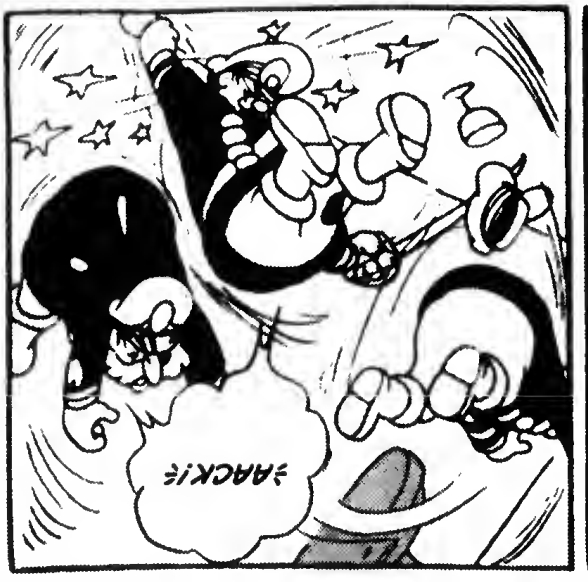

WHIRR
WHIRR
DADADA
WAH HA HA HA! COME, COME! DRAGONFLIES OF THE NATION OF STAR, DIG YOUR GRAVES AND COME AT US AGAIN. WE WILL CRUSH YOU AT OUR LEISURE! WAH HA!
BABOOM
BZNZTVNNBWN


YOUR VENEMOUS TOUNGUE IS QUITE SKILLED.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S INEBRIATED HE TALKS SO MUCH.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE CAPTURE HORSESHOE ISLAND. NOW, THEN, LET'S TOAST!

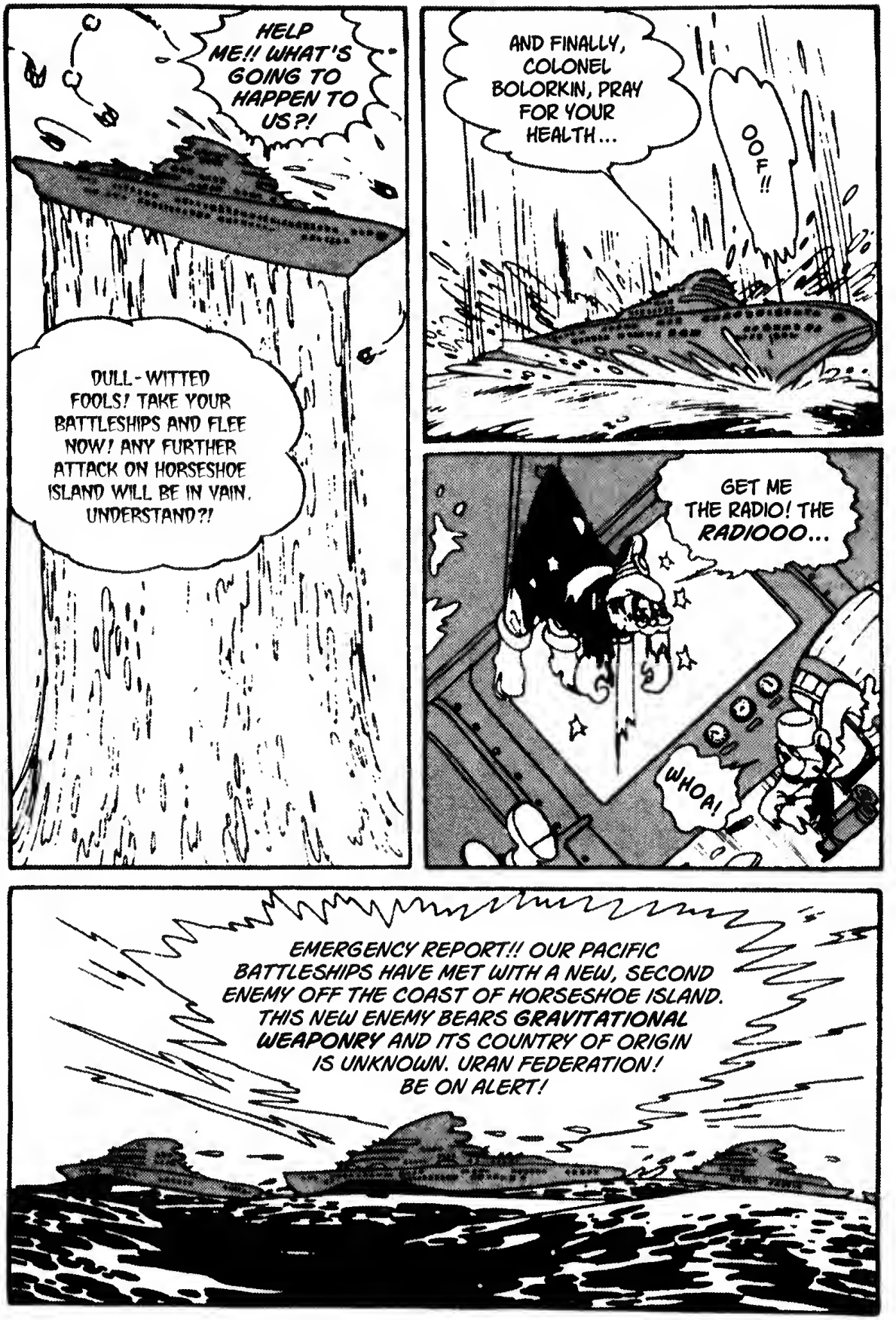

COLONEL BOLORKIN, WITHDRAW FROM THE BATTLE AT ONCE. I ORDER A CEASEFIRE.
WHO'S THAT?!


≫WHEE!≪ YOU--
YOU'RE WELCOME, I-IT WAS NOTHING!
BOLORKIN... I AM SPEAKING ONLY TO YOU. I URGE YOU TO BE OBEDIENT AND HEED MY WARNING. IF YOU DO NOT, THEN YOU AND YOUR MEN MAY MEET WITH AN UNFORTUNATE DISASTER.
?
?
WH-WH-WH-WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?! SHOW YOURSELF!!
≫HRRR!≪ THERE IT IS AGAIN! CAN'T YOU LOT HEAR THAT VOICE, TOO?
I CAN'T HEAR A THING.
AFTER ALL I'VE SAID, YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND. I SEE, YOU ANIMALS CALLED HUMANS ARE TRULY THICK-HEADED THINGS. LOOK IN FRONT OF YOU-- OUT THE WINDOW!
FINE, THEN! ≫HYAA!≪ YOU'RE A NATION OF STAR SPY! YOU SON OF A--!! YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
THIS IS WHY WE DON'T LIKE HIM DRUNK!


OUTSIDE THE WINDOW? WAAH! AIEEE!
?
?
!?
!!
FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!

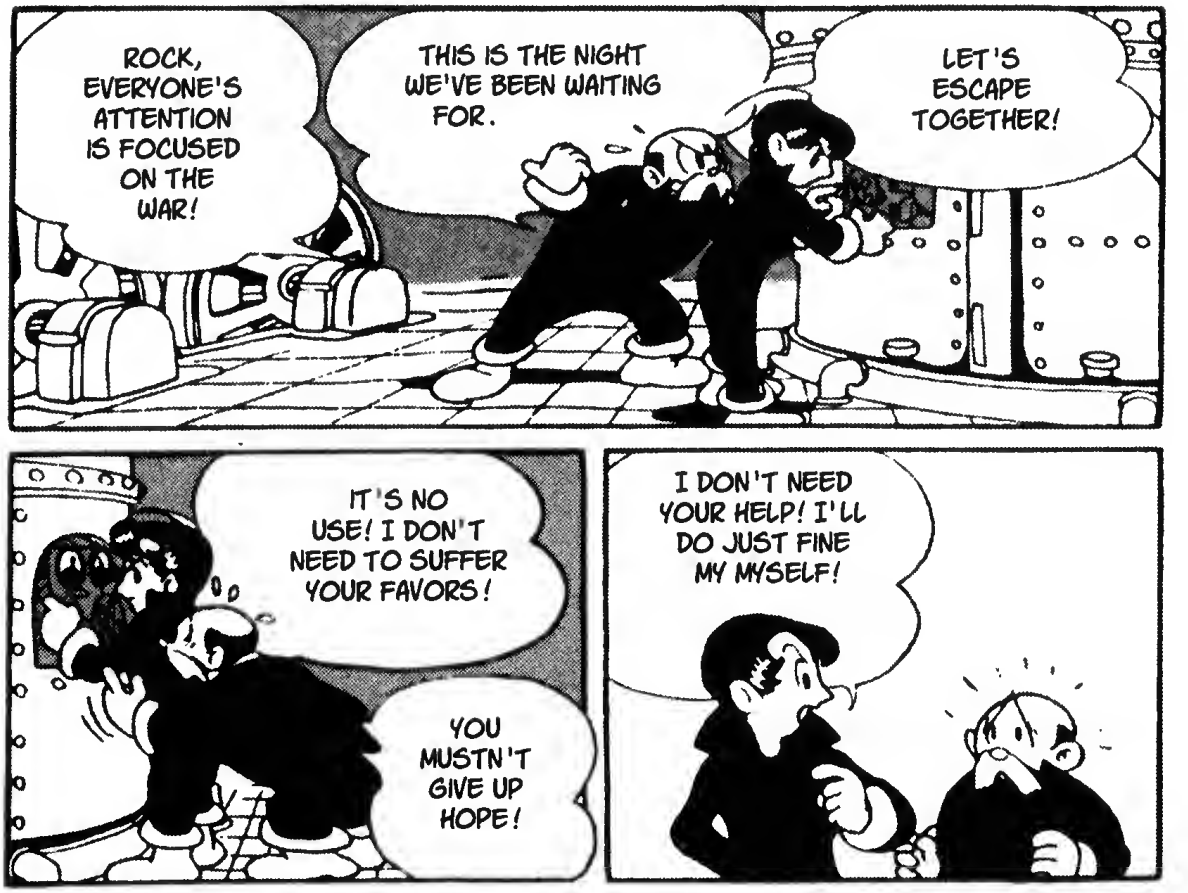

¿AACK!?

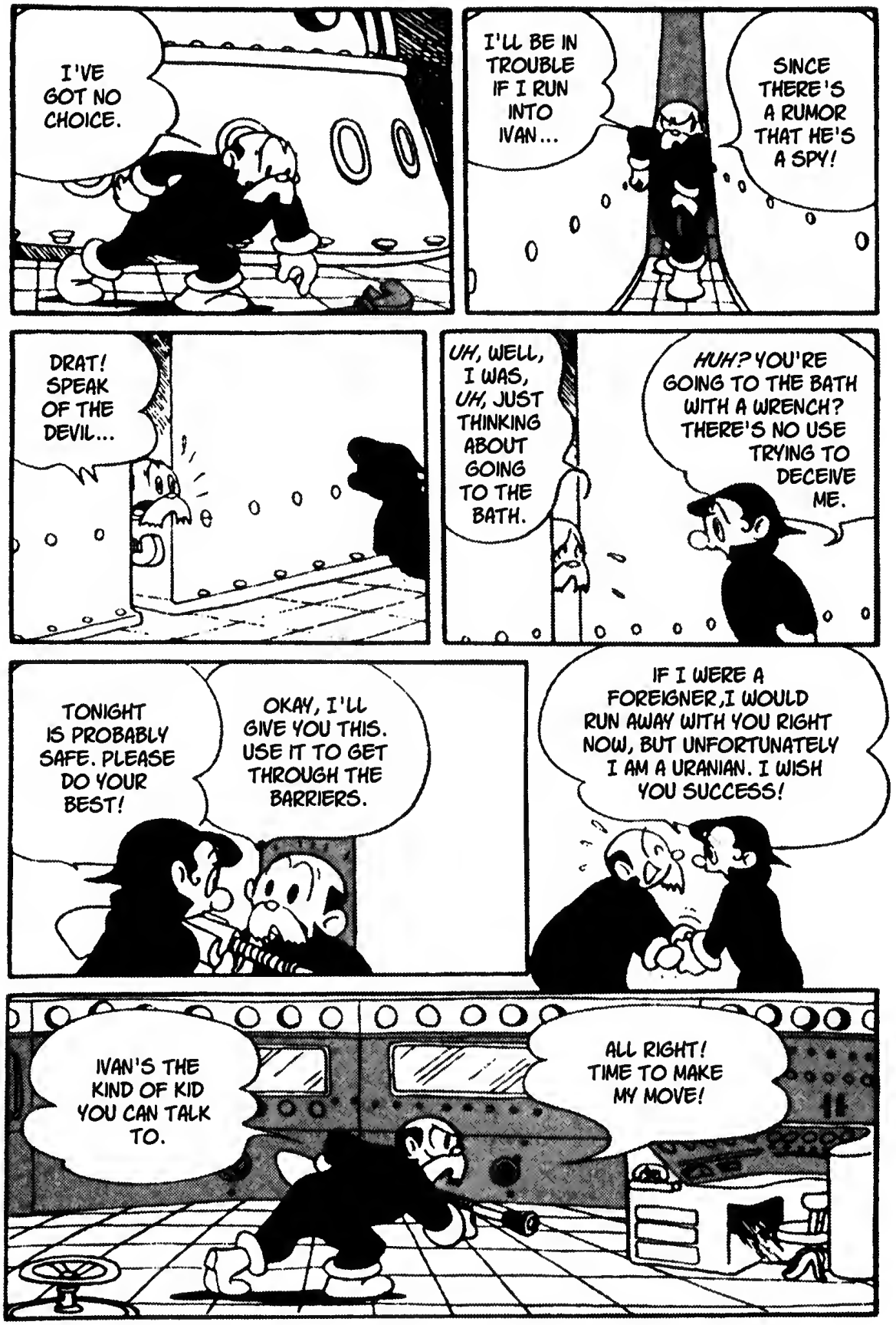
HOW WAS THAT, COLONEL BOLORKIN? PERHAPS YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH NOW?
OH! IT'S THAT VOICE! THE OWNER OF THAT MYSTERI-OUS VOICE...

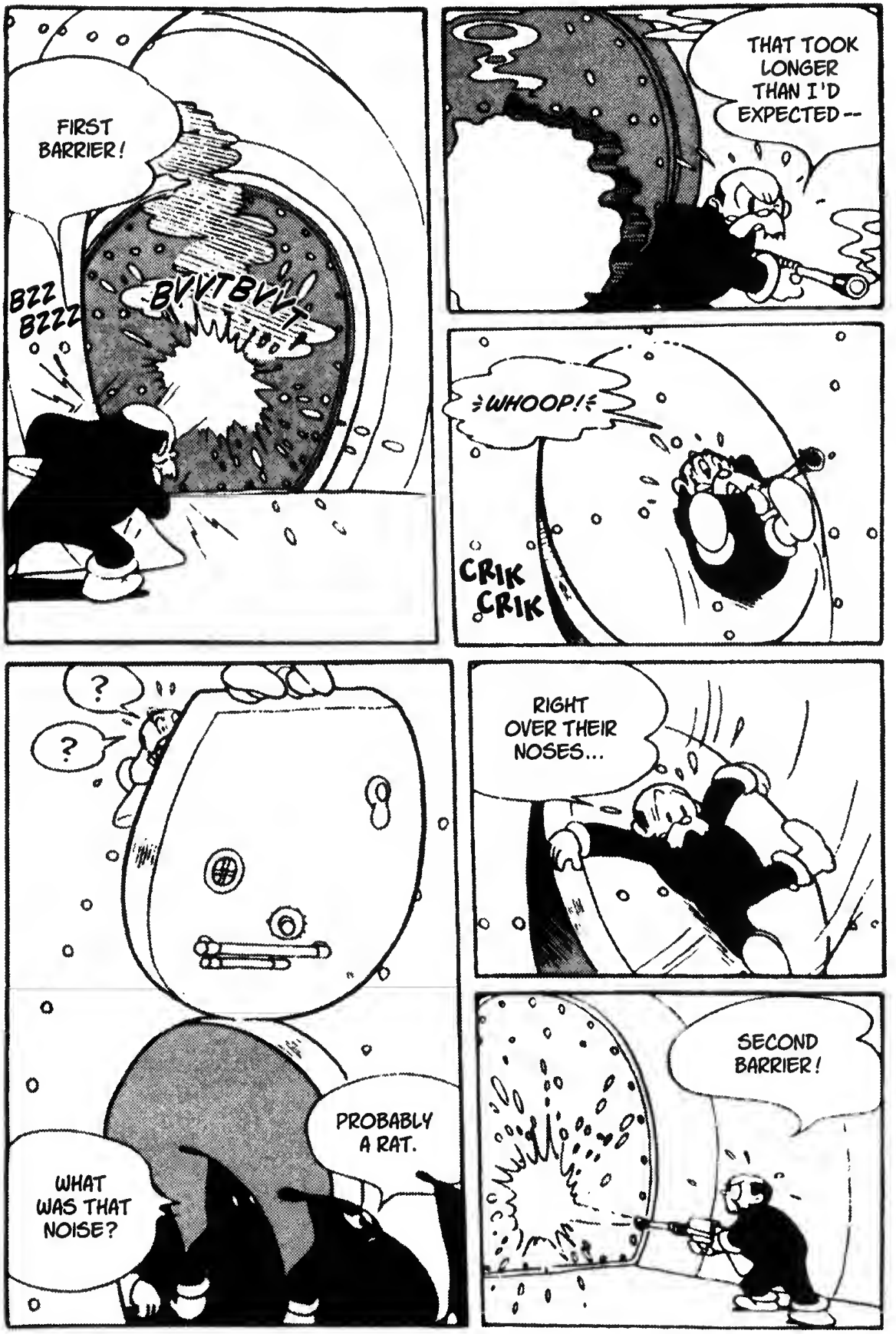

HELP ME!! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?!
DULL-WITTED FOOLS! TAKE YOUR BATTLESHIPS AND FLEE NOW! ANY FURTHER ATTACK ON HORSESHOE ISLAND WILL BE IN VAIN. UNDERSTAND?!
AND FINALLY, COLONEL BOLORKIN, PRAY FOR YOUR HEALTH...
OOF!!
GET ME THE RADIO! THE RADIOOO...
WHOA!
EMERGENCY REPORT!! OUR PACIFIC BATTLESHIPS HAVE MET WITH A NEW, SECOND ENEMY OFF THE COAST OF HORSESHOE ISLAND. THIS NEW ENEMY BEARS GRAVITATIONAL WEAPONRY AND ITS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN IS UNKNOWN. URAN FEDERATION! BE ON ALERT!

SUPER GRAVITY CREATURES--THE FUMOON

OLD MAN MAKES HIS ESCAPE

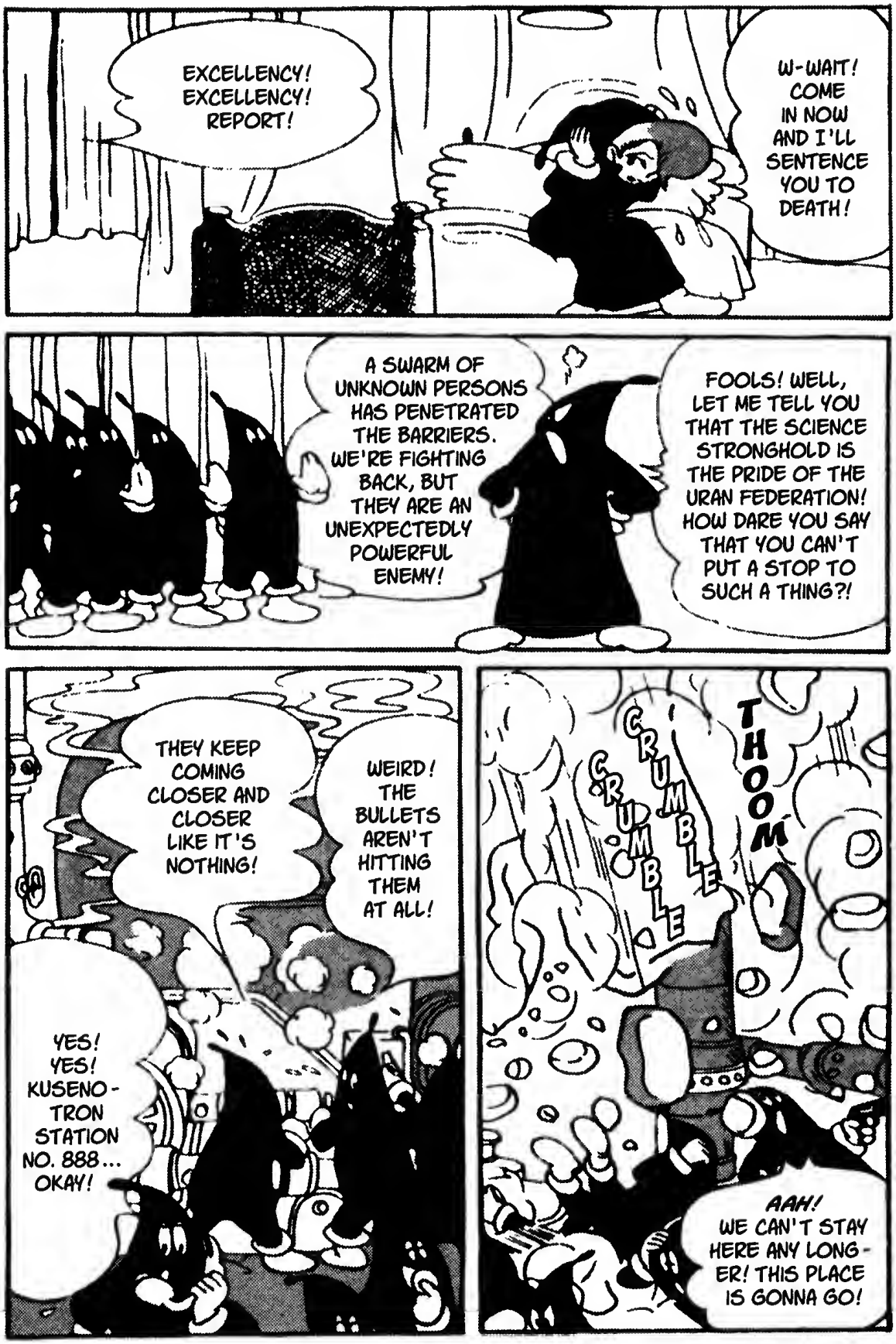

ROCK, EVERYONE'S ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THE WAR!
THIS IS THE NIGHT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
LET'S ESCAPE TOGETHER!
IT'S NO USE! I DON'T NEED TO SUFFER YOUR FAVORS!
YOU MUSTN'T GIVE UP HOPE!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! I'LL DO JUST FINE MY MYSELF!

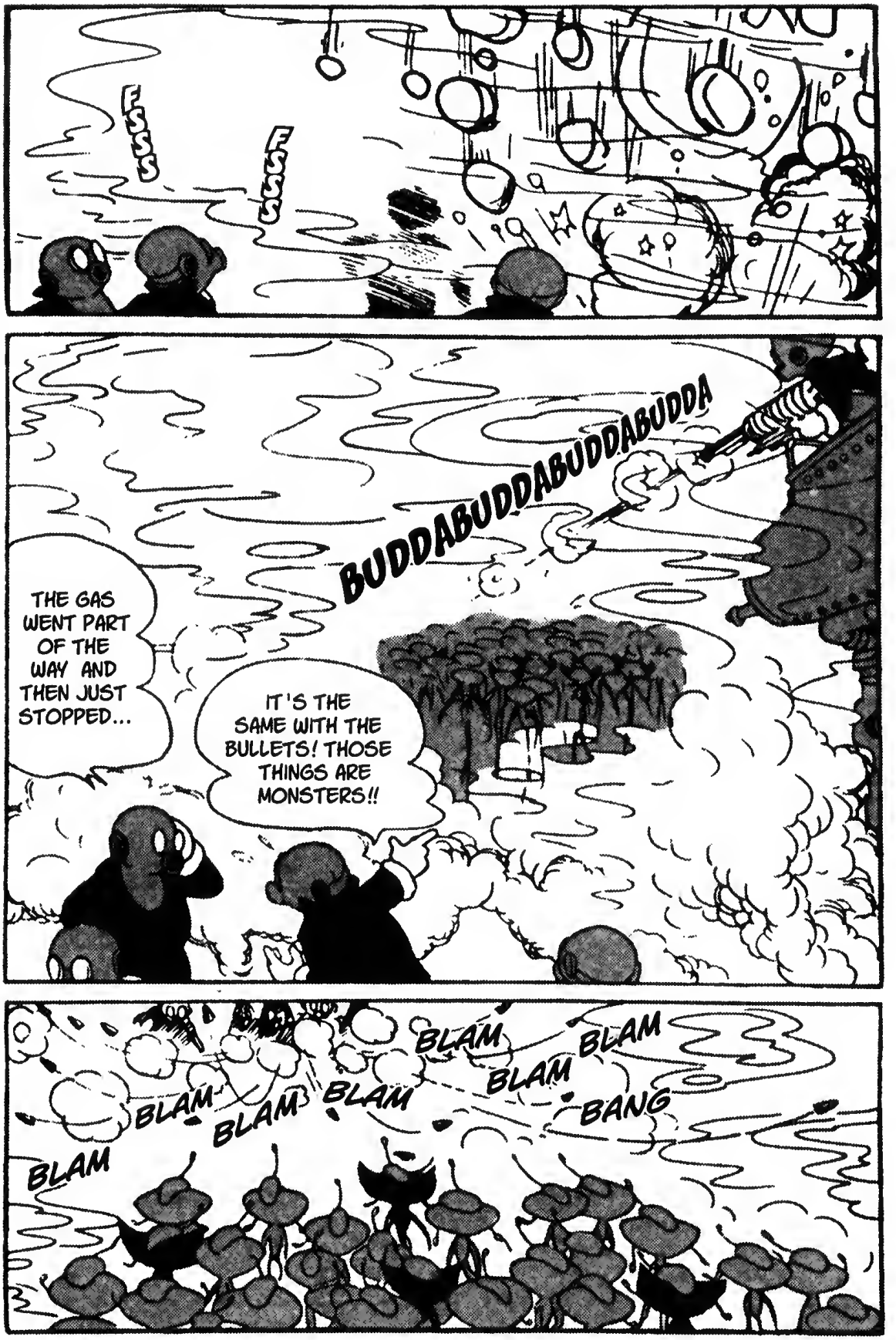

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
I'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF I RUN INTO IVAN...
SINCE THERE'S A RUMOR THAT HE'S A SPY!
DRAT! SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
UH, WELL, I WAS, UH, JUST THINKING ABOUT GOING TO THE BATH.
HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO THE BATH WITH A WRENCH? THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO DECEIVE ME.
TONIGHT IS PROBABLY SAFE. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST!
OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS. USE IT TO GET THROUGH THE BARRIERS.
IF I WERE A FOREIGNER, I WOULD RUN AWAY WITH YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I AM A URANIAN. I WISH YOU SUCCESS!
IVAN'S THE KIND OF KID YOU CAN TALK TO.
ALL RIGHT! TIME TO MAKE MY MOVE!

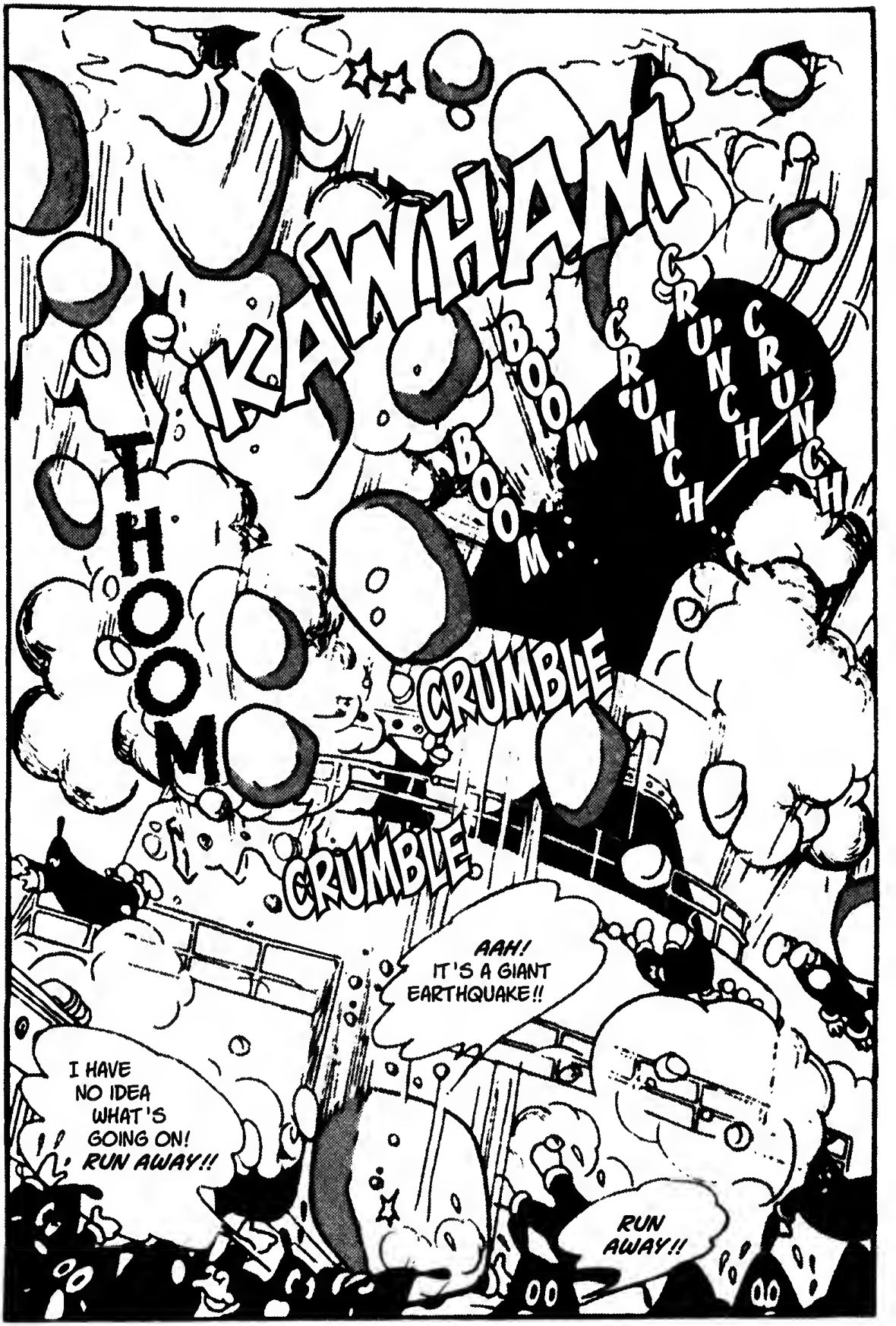

FIRST BARRIER!
BZZ BZZZ
BV.VTBVVT
THAT TOOK LONGER THAN I'D EXPECTED--
WHOOP!
CRIK CRIK
?
?
RIGHT OVER THEIR NOSES...
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
PROBABLY A RAT.
SECOND BARRIER!

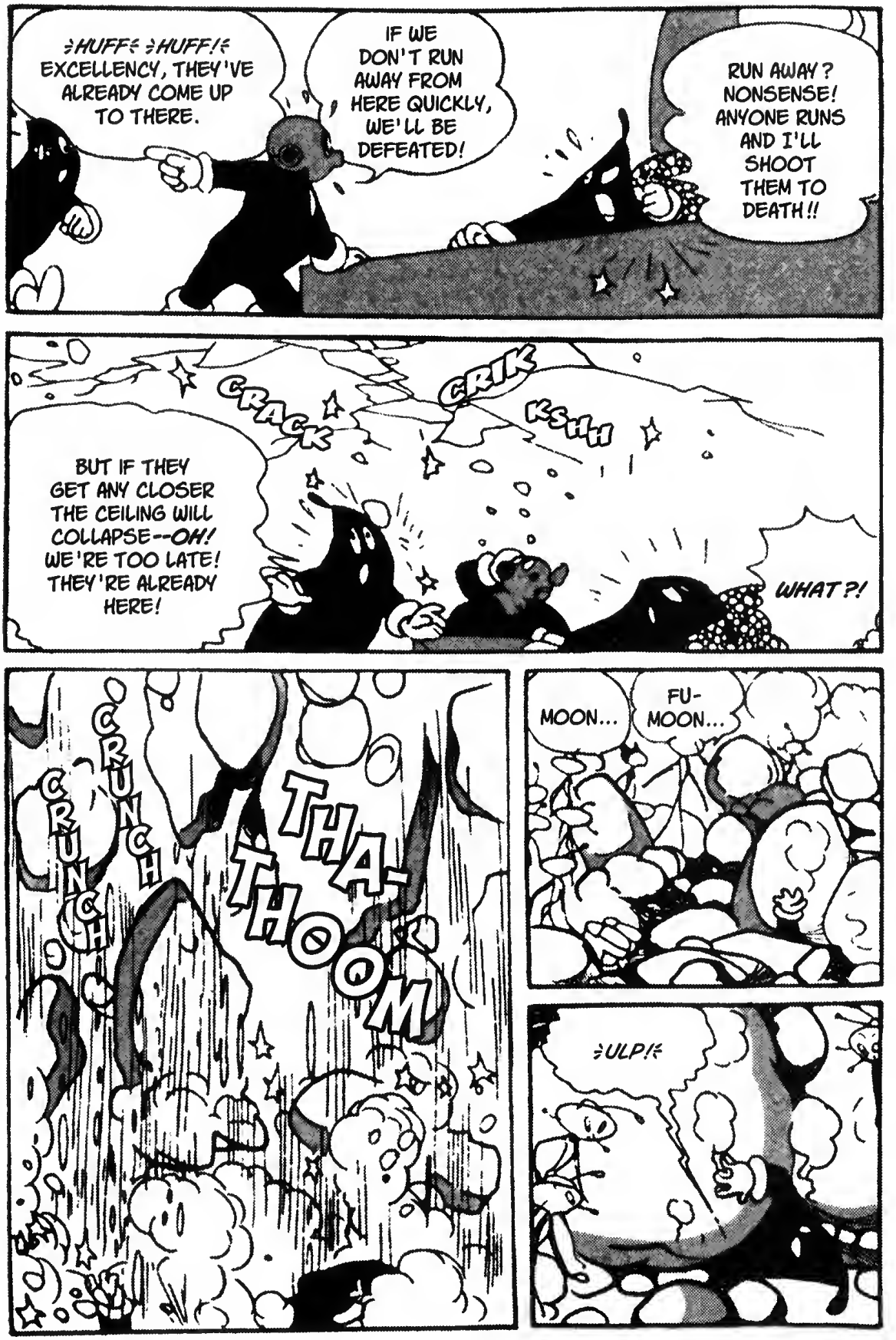
HEY! ARE YOU ONE OF US?
BE QUIET! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB HERE?!
OKAY, I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOUR DONE.
HEY, YOU! QUIT SITTING AROUND, AND GIVE ME A HAND!
WHO? ME?
WHAT? DON'T YOU HAVE A KEY? YOU COULD AT LEAST TAKE CARE OF THAT QUICKLY, RIGHT? IDIOT!
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
NOW TAKE THIS! I'VE GOT NO MORE USE FOR YOU!
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
WHAT A GUY! NO MISTAKE--HE MUST BE THE BIGGEST NUMBSKULL IN THE WHOLE URAN FED-ERATION!
≠SNORE≠
IT'S AN UPWARD SLOPE. I MUST BE NEAR THE EXIT! THANK GOODNESS!
DEEDEE DEEDEEDEEDEEDEE DEEDEEDEE DEEDEEDEE

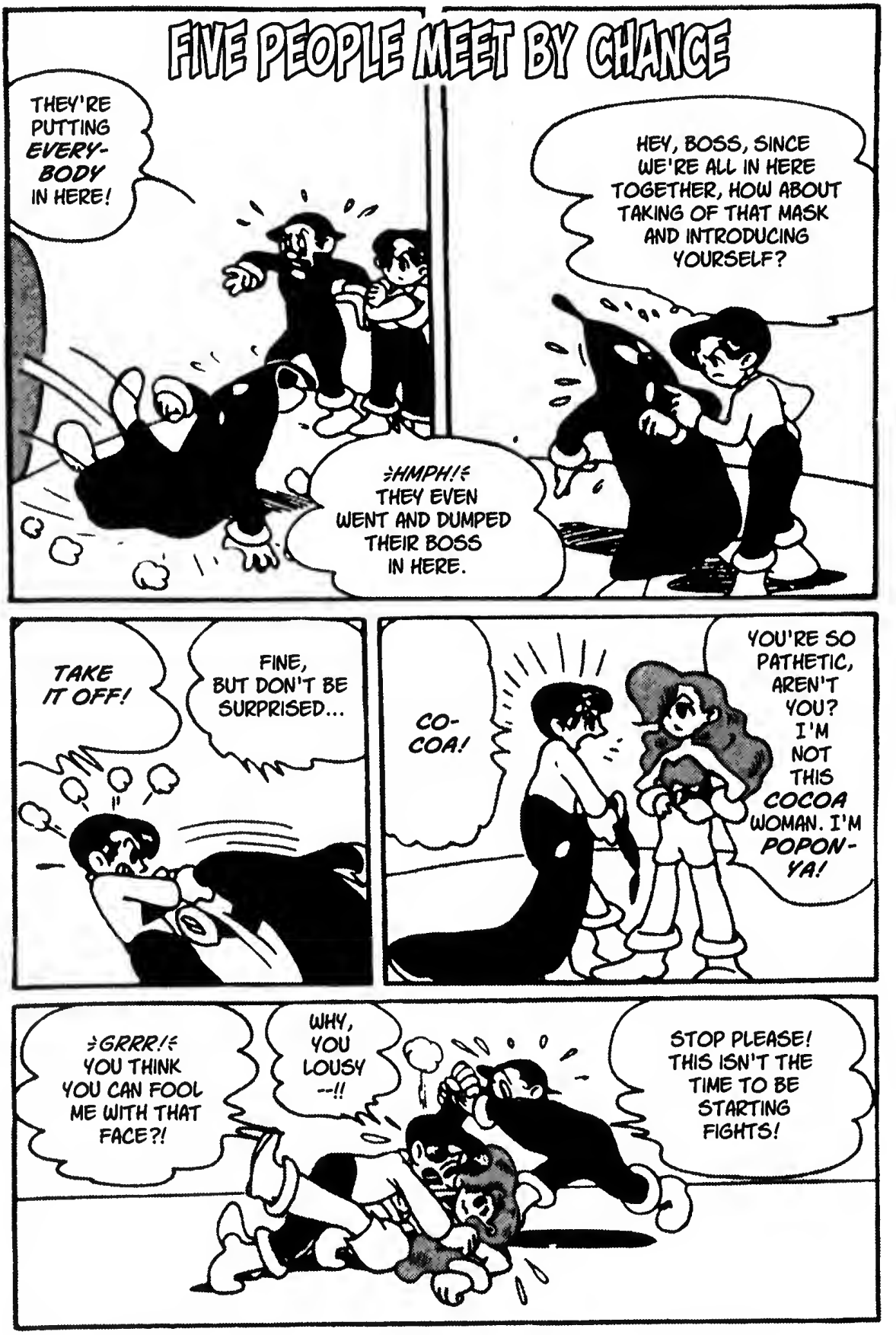
UNEXPECTED INTRUDERS
DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE
IT'S ALL OVER.
EVEN THOUGH I CAME SO FAR...
WHAT'D HE SAY?
SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST BARRIER NUMBER 32 HAS BEEN SMASHED THROUGH BY SEVERAL DOZEN UNKNOWN WHITE INTRUDERS.
DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE DEEDEE
ALL PERSONNEL! EMERGENCY STATUS!!
WHO'S STILL SLEEPING?
THIS IS USUALLY BED TIME!
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ME.
SOMEBODY ELSE HAS COME IN IN MY PLACE!
ALL RIGHT! NOW'S THE CHANCE TO MAKE MY BREAK!

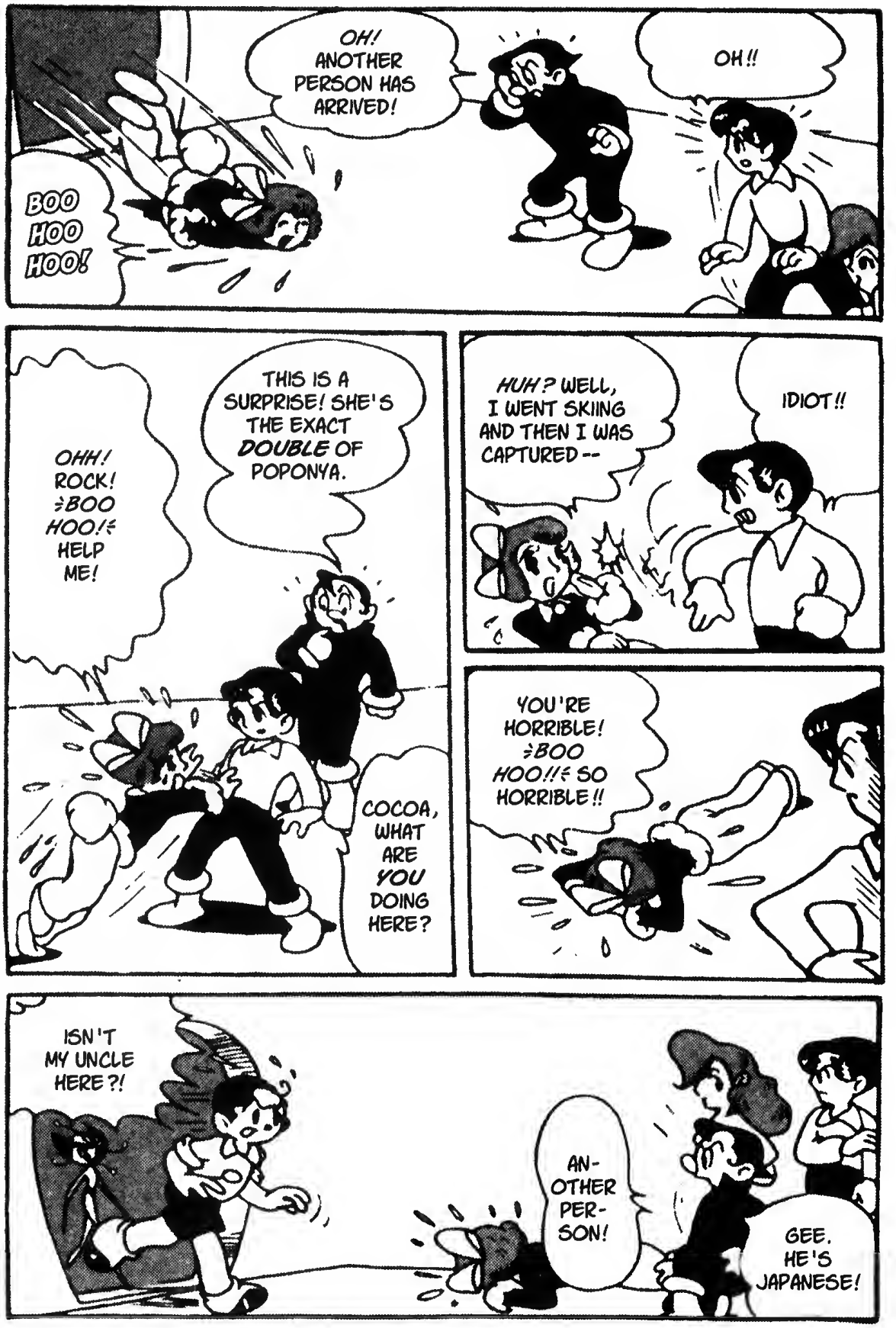

EXCELLENCY! EXCELLENCY! REPORT!
W-WAIT! COME IN NOW AND I'LL SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!
A SWARM OF UNKNOWN PERSONS HAS PENETRATED THE BARRIERS. WE'RE FIGHTING BACK, BUT THEY ARE AN UNEXPECTEDLY POWERFUL ENEMY!
FOOLS! WELL, LET ME TELL YOU THAT THE SCIENCE STRONGHOLD IS THE PRIDE OF THE URAN FEDERATION! HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT YOU CAN'T PUT A STOP TO SUCH A THING?!
THEY KEEP COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER LIKE IT'S NOTHING!
WEIRD! THE BULLETS AREN'T HITTING THEM AT ALL!
YES! YES! KUSENO-TRON STATION NO. 888... OKAY!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
THOOM
AAH! WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANY LONGER! THIS PLACE IS GONNA GO!

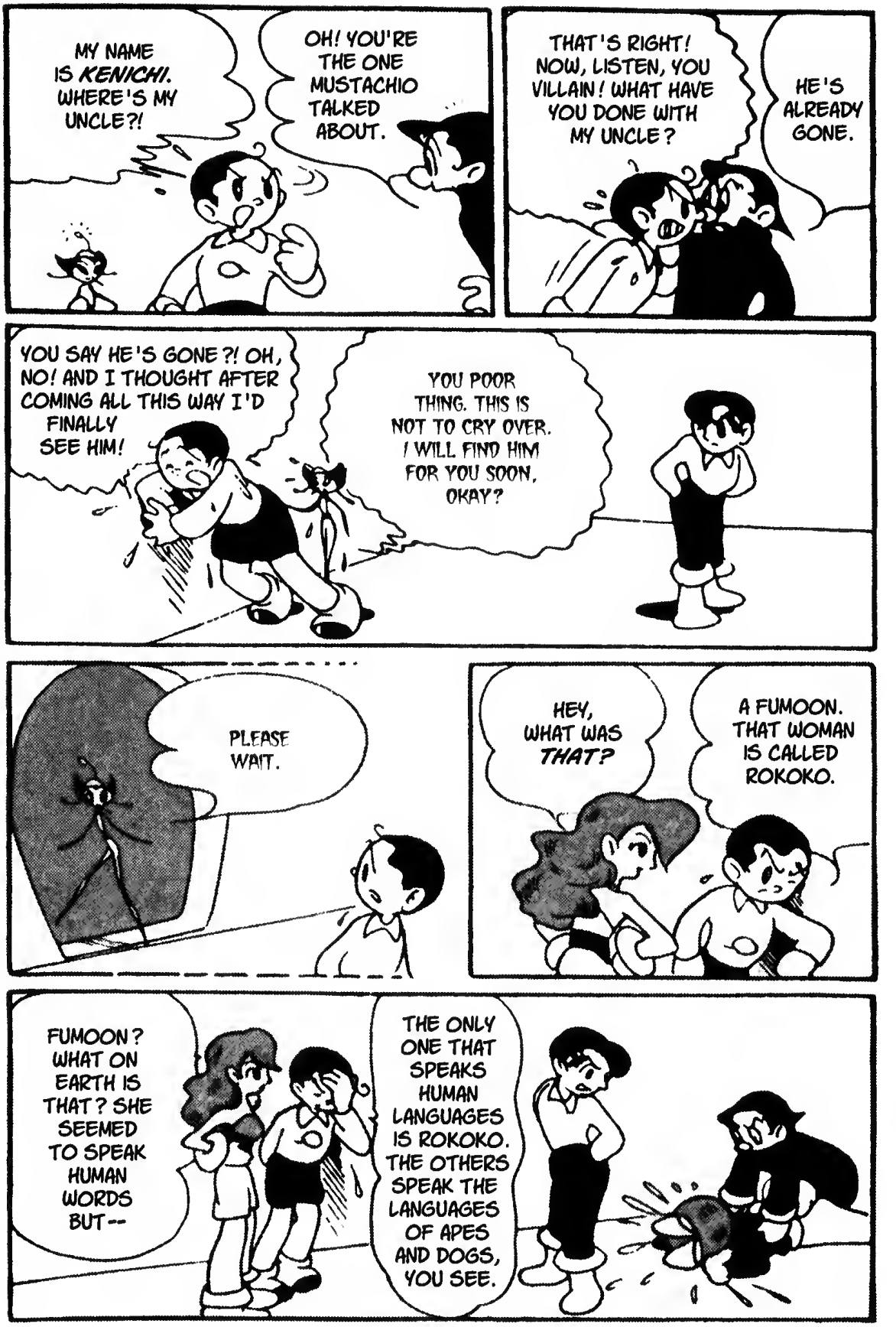

FSSS
SSSSS
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
THE GAS WENT PART OF THE WAY AND THEN JUST STOPPED...
IT'S THE SAME WITH THE BULLETS! THOSE THINGS ARE MONSTERS!!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BANG

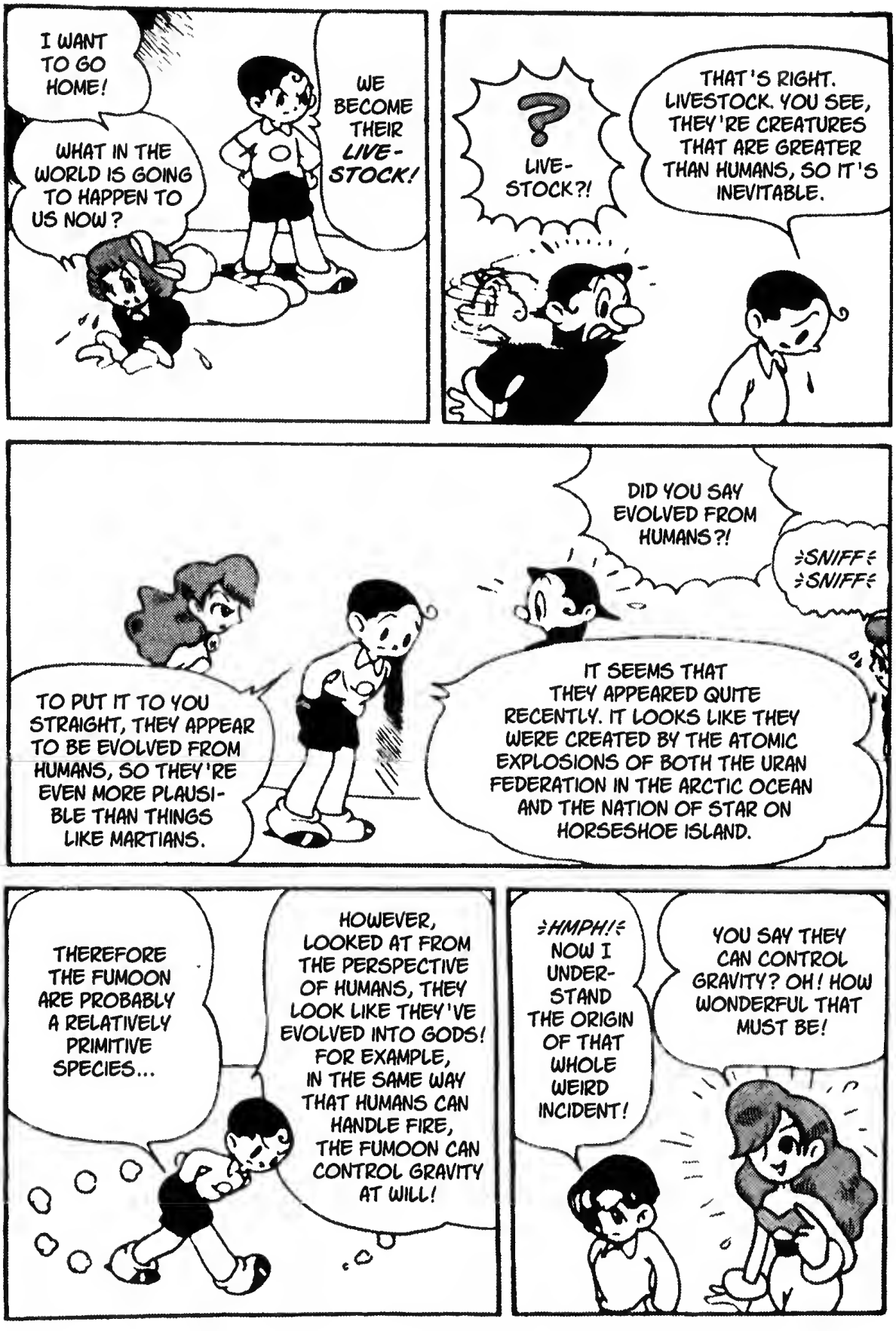

KAWHAM
BOOM
BOOM
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
THOOM
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
AAH! IT'S A GIANT EARTHQUAKE!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON! RUN AWAY!!
RUN AWAY!!


≠HUFF≠ ≠HUFF!≠
EXCELLENCY, THEY'VE ALREADY COME UP TO THERE.
IF WE DON'T RUN AWAY FROM HERE QUICKLY, WE'LL BE DEFEATED!
RUN AWAY? NONSENSE! ANYONE RUNS AND I'LL SHOOT THEM TO DEATH!!
BUT IF THEY GET ANY CLOSER THE CEILING WILL COLLAPSE--OH! WE'RE TOO LATE! THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!
CRACK
CRIK
KSHH
WHAT?!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
THA-THOOM
MOON...
FU-MOON...
≠ULP!≠

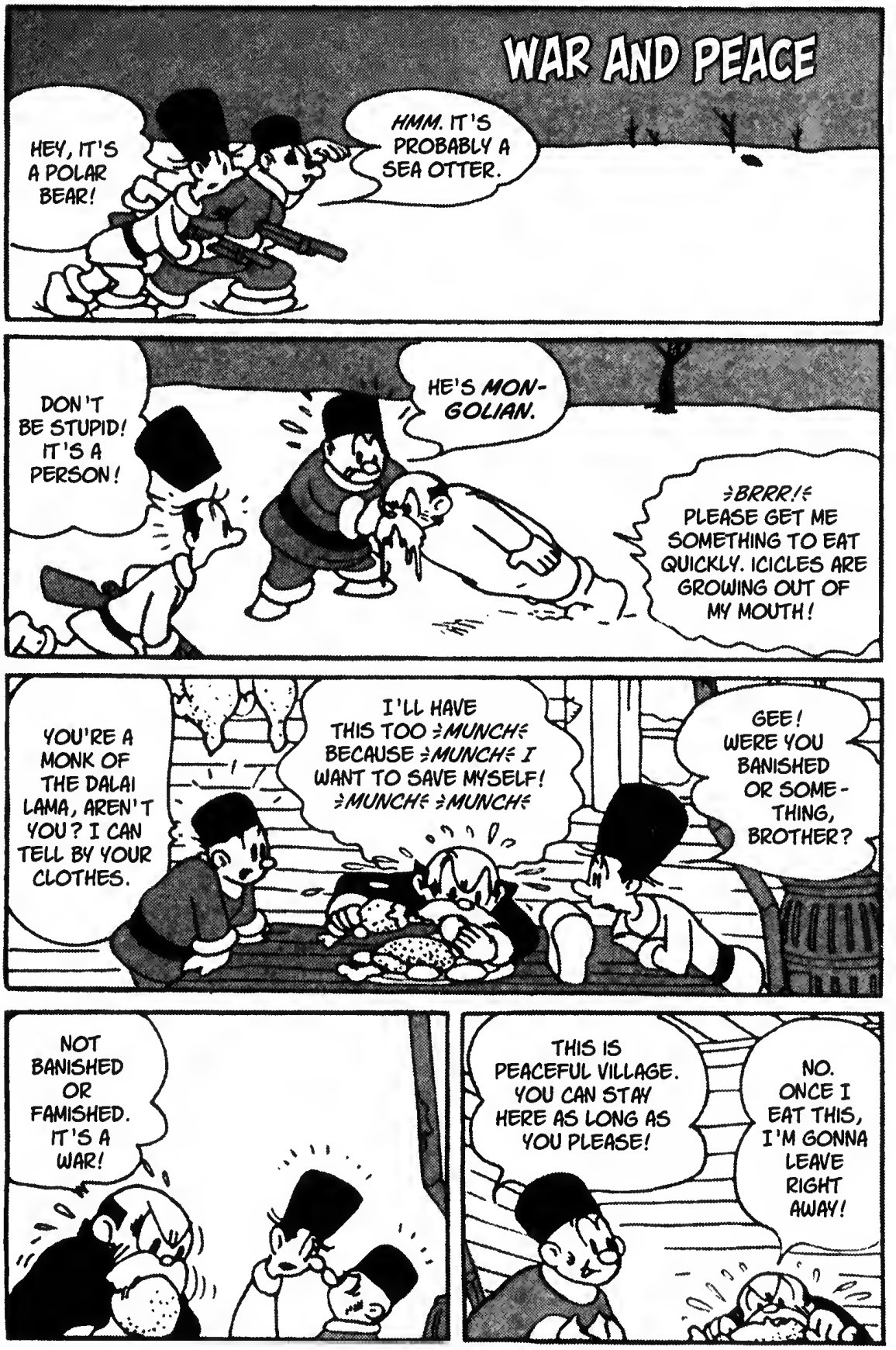

FIVE PEOPLE MEET BY CHANCE
THEY'RE PUTTING EVERY-BODY IN HERE!
HEY, BOSS, SINCE WE'RE ALL IN HERE TOGETHER, HOW ABOUT TAKING OF THAT MASK AND INTRODUCING YOURSELF?
≠HMPH!≠ THEY EVEN WENT AND DUMPED THEIR BOSS IN HERE.
TAKE IT OFF!
FINE, BUT DON'T BE SURPRISED...
CO-COA!
YOU'RE SO PATHETIC, AREN'T YOU? I'M NOT THIS COCOA WOMAN. I'M POPON-YA!
≠GRRR!≠ YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME WITH THAT FACE?!
WHY, YOU LOUSY --!!
STOP PLEASE! THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE STARTING FIGHTS!

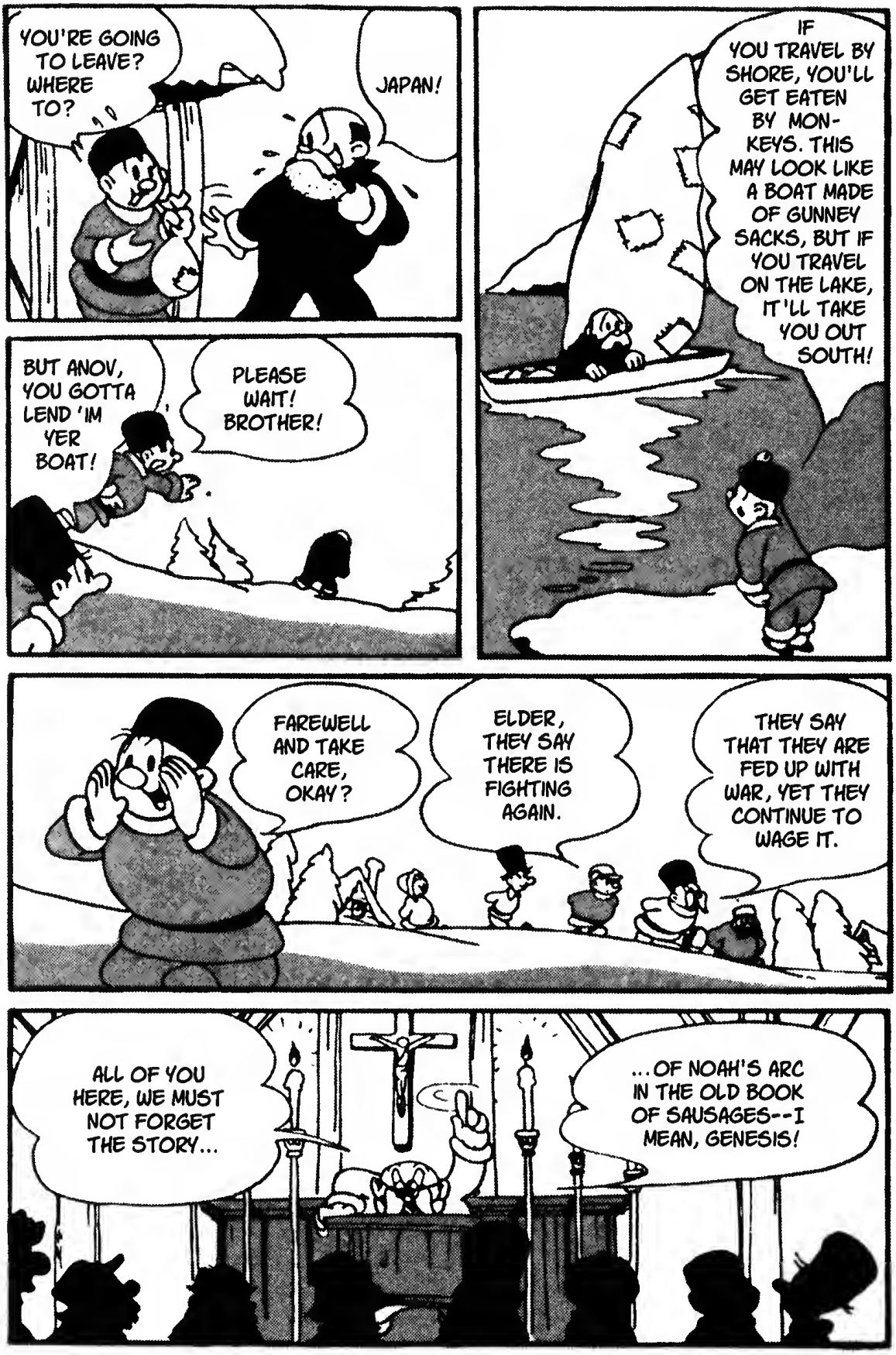

OH! ANOTHER PERSON HAS ARRIVED!
OH!!
BOO HOO HOO!
THIS IS A SURPRISE! SHE'S THE EXACT DOUBLE OF POPONYA.
OHH! ROCK! ≠BOO HOO!≠ HELP ME!
COCOA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? WELL, I WENT SKIING AND THEN I WAS CAPTURED --
IDIOT!!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE! ≠BOO HOO!!≠ SO HORRIBLE!!
ISN'T MY UNCLE HERE?!
AN-OTHER PER-SON!
GEE. HE'S JAPANESE!


MY NAME IS KENICHI. WHERE'S MY UNCLE?!
OH! YOU'RE THE ONE MUSTACHIO TALKED ABOUT.
THAT'S RIGHT! NOW, LISTEN, YOU VILLAIN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY UNCLE?
HE'S ALREADY GONE.
YOU SAY HE'S GONE?! OH, NO! AND I THOUGHT AFTER COMING ALL THIS WAY I'D FINALLY SEE HIM!
YOU POOR THING. THIS IS NOT TO CRY OVER. I WILL FIND HIM FOR YOU SOON, OKAY?
PLEASE WAIT.
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?
A FUMOON. THAT WOMAN IS CALLED ROKOKO.
FUMOON? WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT? SHE SEEMED TO SPEAK HUMAN WORDS BUT--
THE ONLY ONE THAT SPEAKS HUMAN LANGUAGES IS ROKOKO. THE OTHERS SPEAK THE LANGUAGES OF APES AND DOGS, YOU SEE.


I WANT TO GO HOME!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO US NOW?
WE BECOME THEIR LIVE-STOCK!
?
LIVE-STOCK?!
THAT'S RIGHT. LIVESTOCK. YOU SEE, THEY'RE CREATURES THAT ARE GREATER THAN HUMANS, SO IT'S INEVITABLE.
DID YOU SAY EVOLVED FROM HUMANS?!
≒SNIFF≒ ≒SNIFF≒
TO PUT IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, THEY APPEAR TO BE EVOLVED FROM HUMANS, SO THEY'RE EVEN MORE PLAUSI-BLE THAN THINGS LIKE MARTIANS.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY APPEARED QUITE RECENTLY. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE CREATED BY THE ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS OF BOTH THE URAN FEDERATION IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN AND THE NATION OF STAR ON HORSESHOE ISLAND.
THEREFORE THE FUMOON ARE PROBABLY A RELATIVELY PRIMITIVE SPECIES...
HOWEVER, LOOKED AT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HUMANS, THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE EVOLVED INTO GODS! FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE SAME WAY THAT HUMANS CAN HANDLE FIRE, THE FUMOON CAN CONTROL GRAVITY AT WILL!
≒HMPH!≒ NOW I UNDER-STAND THE ORIGIN OF THAT WHOLE WEIRD INCIDENT!
YOU SAY THEY CAN CONTROL GRAVITY? OH! HOW WONDERFUL THAT MUST BE!

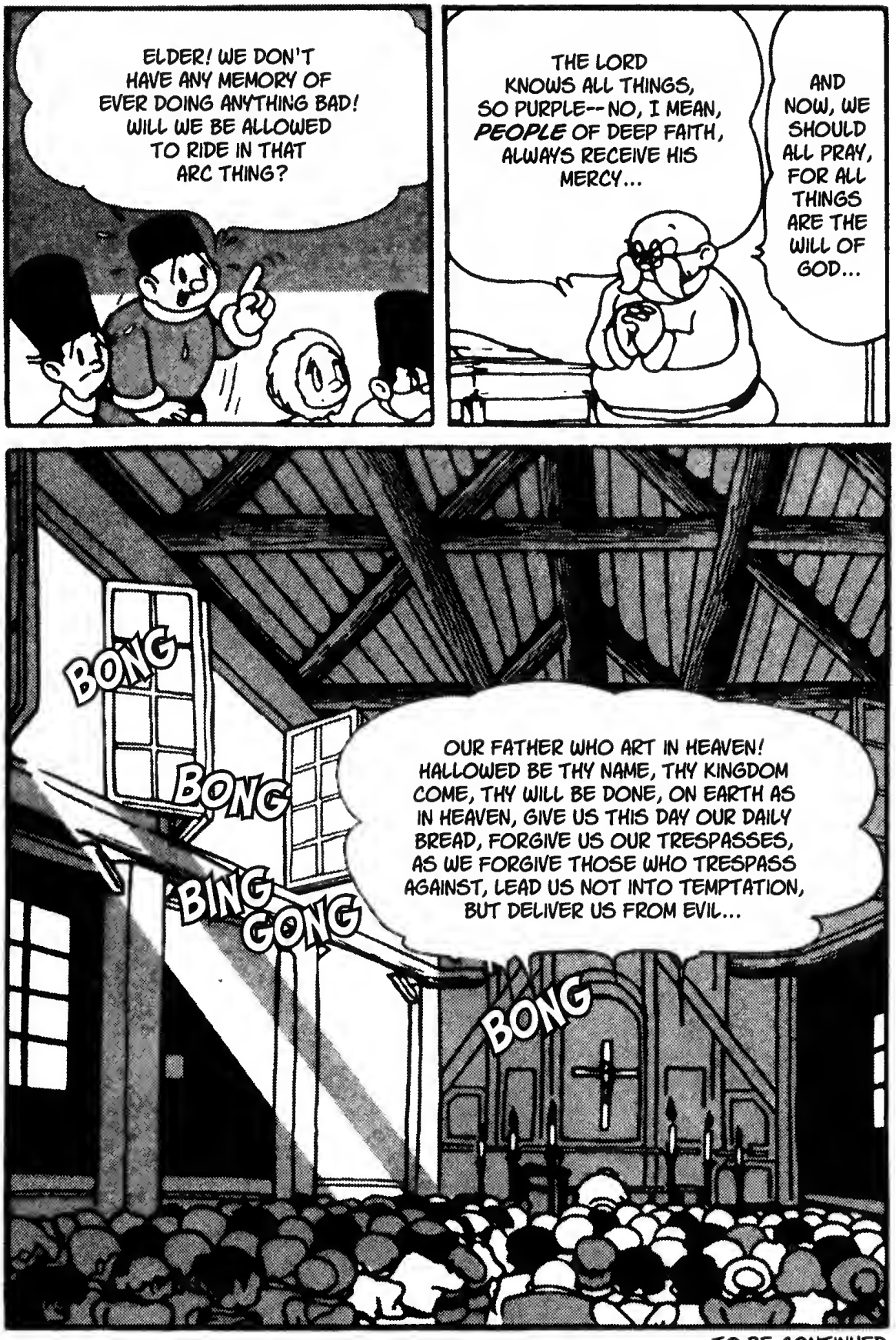
WHAT'S SO WONDERFUL ABOUT IT?!
SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY TURN HUMANS INTO LIVESTOCK LIKE CATTLE AND PIGS! WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US?
AAH! I SHUDDER JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT! THEY'LL PUT US IN PENS AND GIVE US TINY BITS OF FOOD. WE'LL BE LIVING EVERY DAY LIKE BEGGARS -- NO! I CAN'T STAND IT!
EVERYONE! THE WORLD STILL KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THIS, BUT THE FUMOON ARE PROCEEDING WITH THEIR TERRIFYING PLANS! THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW ABOUT THIS ARE US HERE!
THE FIVE OF US WILL STAND TOGETHER! THEN WE WILL OPPOSE THE FUMOON TO THE LIMITS OF OUR ABILITY. THEY'RE CREATURES OF FLESH AND BLOOD, TOO. IF WE WORK TOGETHER, HOW CAN WE NOT SUCCEED?
≠HMPH!≠ DO WHAT YOU WANT!
OH, NO! WILL WE DIE?


WAR AND PEACE
HEY, IT'S A POLAR BEAR!
HMM. IT'S PROBABLY A SEA OTTER.
DON'T BE STUPID! IT'S A PERSON!
HE'S MONGOLIAN.
≠BRRR!≠ PLEASE GET ME SOMETHING TO EAT QUICKLY. ICICLES ARE GROWING OUT OF MY MOUTH!
YOU'RE A MONK OF THE DALAI LAMA, AREN'T YOU? I CAN TELL BY YOUR CLOTHES.
I'LL HAVE THIS TOO ≠MUNCH≠ BECAUSE ≠MUNCH≠ I WANT TO SAVE MYSELF! ≠MUNCH≠ ≠MUNCH≠
GEE! WERE YOU BANISHED OR SOMETHING, BROTHER?
NOT BANISHED OR FAMISHED. IT'S A WAR!
THIS IS PEACEFUL VILLAGE. YOU CAN STAY HERE AS LONG AS YOU PLEASE!
NO. ONCE I EAT THIS, I'M GONNA LEAVE RIGHT AWAY!


YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE? WHERE TO?
JAPAN!
IF YOU TRAVEL BY SHORE, YOU'LL GET EATEN BY MONKEYS. THIS MAY LOOK LIKE A BOAT MADE OF GUNNEY SACKS, BUT IF YOU TRAVEL ON THE LAKE, IT'LL TAKE YOU OUT SOUTH!
BUT ANOV, YOU GOTTA LEND 'IM YER BOAT!
PLEASE WAIT! BROTHER!
FAREWELL AND TAKE CARE, OKAY?
ELDER, THEY SAY THERE IS FIGHTING AGAIN.
THEY SAY THAT THEY ARE FED UP WITH WAR, YET THEY CONTINUE TO WAGE IT.
ALL OF YOU HERE, WE MUST NOT FORGET THE STORY...
...OF NOAH'S ARC IN THE OLD BOOK OF SAUSAGES--I MEAN, GENESIS!

"A LONG TIME AGO, PEOPLE BECAME SINFULLY WICKED, AND THEY WARRED AGAINST EACH OTHER AS MUCH AS THEY PLEASED."
"AND THE LORD BECAME GREAT WITH RAGE AND RELEASED A GREAT FLOOD UPON THE EARTH. AND THUS ALL THE PEOPLE WERE DROWNED, AND NOT A SINGLE PERSON WAS LEFT ALIVE!"
THOOM
THOOM

ALL EXCEPT FOR A RIGHTEOUS FARMER CALLED NOAH, WHO WAS SPARED. NOAH, ALONG WITH HIS LIVESTOCK AND FAMILY, GOT INTO AN ARC AND SO WAS HE SAVED.
NOAH
"AND NOW, LIKE NOAH, IT SEEMS THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS HEAVEN'S JUDGMENT AGAIN!"


ELDER! WE DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF EVER DOING ANYTHING BAD! WILL WE BE ALLOWED TO RIDE IN THAT ARC THING?
THE LORD KNOWS ALL THINGS, SO PURPLE-- NO, I MEAN, PEOPLE OF DEEP FAITH, ALWAYS RECEIVE HIS MERCY...
AND NOW, WE SHOULD ALL PRAY, FOR ALL THINGS ARE THE WILL OF GOD...
BONG
BONG
BING GONG
OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN! HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN, GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST, LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL...
BONG

TO BE CONTINUED

来るべき世界

NEXTWORLD

来るべき世界

From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Metropolis*, comes *Nextworld*, part of Osamu Tezuka's cycle of original science-fiction graphic novels – including *Lost World* and *Metropolis* – published in the late 1940s and early 1950s. When nuclear testing creates mutated animals with amazing supernatural abilities, the world and its great superpowers are drawn into political conflict that could light the fuse for World War III.